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Dysart votes for a 3.84% tax increase

DARREN LUM

Editor

Ratepayers in Dysart et al will see a tax increase of 3.84 per cent on their next municipal tax bill after council voted at the special meeting on Friday, Feb. 11, held virtually.

It's nearly half of the proposed 7.5 per cent proposed in December and less than the 4.22 per cent increase reached after the second draft for the budget.

The decrease in the tax levy from 4.22 to 3.84 per cent was reached after Deputy Mayor Pat Kennedy presented the idea to draw \$40,000 from the Canada Community Build grant, which will partially fund the \$80,000 sidewalk project on Maple Avenue, starting at Park Street and ending at the Gardens of Haliburton retirement home. It now takes the Community Build Fund from the \$290,000 to \$250,000.

Kennedy said this action is in the best interests of ratepayers and was done with the knowledge of an expected "substantial surplus" in 2021, which has yet to be finalized.

"So, I still feel we're contributing a lot to our reserves and we do have a plan in asset management supplement of \$170,000 a year plus the increase to infra-

see RENTAL-RATE page 2



Carnival excites

Ryan Catley, left, and his son Cash Catley speed down the toboggan hill created specially for the Abbey Gardens' first annual Cupid's Carnival on Saturday, Feb. 12, held at the repurposed quarry, located minutes from West Guilford. See more photos on page 18.
/ Submitted by Vivian Collings

Highlands East approves 2022 budget

Residents will see a 1.48 increase in taxes

CHRIS DROST

Staff Reporter

Highlands East Council has officially approved a municipal tax increase of 1.48

per cent for 2022. To local taxpayers, it means an increase of \$7.50 per \$100,000 of tax assessment. So, a property assessed at \$500,000 would see an increase of \$37.50 for the year.

CAO/treasurer, Shannon Hunter

reviewed a list of highlights from the budget, noting that there was a negotiated salary increase of 1.75 per cent across the board, a 4.6 per cent increase in group

see TAXES page 2

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PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

Rental-rate model will be focus of future discussion

from page 1

structures. So, I think we're on the right track," Kennedy said. Whether this will be seen as a positive seen with an auditing lens within a year or two, he wasn't sure.

"But I think we're on the right track to introducing increasing our reserves. I do this with the full knowledge that this is an impediment to reserve building, but I think at this time it's a benefit to our taxpayers to try to reduce our impact as much as possible this year," Kennedy said.

With a 3.84 per cent increase, this means ratepayers will pay \$11.41 more per \$100,000 assessment for residential properties, \$16.92 per \$100,000 for commercial and \$19.60 per \$100,000 for industrial. A one per cent levy increase is equal to about \$101,000 in revenue.

The tax base is composed of 95 per cent being residential with the balance of five per cent for commercial and industrial rate payers.

At the start of the meeting and before council voted for the 3.84 per cent increase, treasurer Barbara Swannell noted Dysart et al ratepayers pay the lowest in the county. It means Dysart ratepayers get a strong return of services from money that is used "very frugally" with 38.4 per cent of the assessment for the county. Mayor Andrea Roberts said for context Haliburton County will see a 3.22 per cent levy increase and education tax levy will not see an increase or a decrease.

The vote for the 3.84 per cent tax levy wasn't unanimous. At 5-2, Councillors Walt McKechnie and John Smith were both looking for an increase lower than three per cent.

They asked about taking \$100,000 from reserves for a \$140,000 reduction for a 2.86 per cent tax increase. Smith wanted this \$100,000 to be applied to 2022 instead of putting it into a working fund reserve he said was worth \$1.7 million. His rationale for the lower increase was how he sympathized with residents, who have endured pandemic-related hardships and how some residents were seeing nominal wage increases, which are less than the tax increase.

He acknowledged the surplus total isn't known, but assumed it could be close to previous year's \$300,000 and taking \$200,000 could help bring down the tax levy increase to under three per cent.

Smith made this assertion when Kennedy had tabled a motion to approve the budget. He clarified that the new

positions in 2023 will be reflected in the budget then and that reserves may be needed to meet this greater expense.

Swannell said the surplus will need to be added to reserves with the current situation.

There is an issue with how the township has a rental rate model for vehicles, which is set where the township pays itself for operation she said.

"It's not working for us anymore because the basis is that as long as the vehicle is rolling down the road and providing services to us it's generating revenue of which the expenses are net against and that surplus – we anticipate a surplus – gets put into the development reserve," she said.

In 2021, the township has drawn \$130,000 on the development reserve to fund its vehicles. Swannell said this is not a good position.

"Historically, going back two or three years ago we were putting in \$150,000 based on the rental rate model. That's not working today. I would recommend that staff be given the opportunity to review the reserve policy. Rethink how we put money into reserve for replacement and asset management and that way there we get a policy in place. We all have rules to play with and that will help to better manage our operating budget and take away the uncertainty of a light winter where our vehicles are not running down the road and generating revenues ... It is a discussion item on its own," she said.

She adds there will be an operating surplus in 2021, but staff are reviewing the numbers.

Swannell added the municipality is now drawing from reserves to fund the vehicles in 2021, which "is not practical at this time, so we will definitely be putting some of that surplus money into reserves for a vehicle replacement and our equipment replacement."

Council will be discussing this issue at a later date.

The sources of funding for Dysart et al is 58 per cent of its total revenue comes from property tax, 16.8 per cent is through grants and other non-tax revenue, which is drawn from municipal reserves and user fees is 25.3 per cent.

The greatest expenditures by department are transportation, environment and protection. From a graph titled Expenditures by Department, Swannell said the "blip" in transportation in 2022 is in part due to money being transferred to the reserves for the asset management plan worth \$140,000.

Some of the amendments made from the second draft included a reduction in general government, a reduction of \$8,250 from phasing in the wage increase for the volunteer firefighters over the year; a reduction within the roads department from staffing changes by not hiring a roads operation manager, but instead hiring an engineer and technician (to start April 1), which will save \$47,696; a total reduction of \$24,942 with the museum, who won't be hiring a summer student; and reduction to floor replacement reserve at the West Guilford Community Centre, and planning and development saw a reduction of \$25,325 because of increased revenue and a reduction of \$11,993 from less wages and benefits. The one area among amendments that grew with this third draft was in landfills where there was an increase of \$4,434 in staffing costs with wages and benefits related to landfill winter hours at Harcourt, Kennisis Lake and West Bay. The total net levy reduction amounted to 1.28 per cent or \$130,842.

The Royal Canadian Legion of Haliburton Branch 129 will receive \$2,000 for its lift (for accessibility to its building) campaign after consideration was given to the non-profit, which was recognized as worthwhile recipient of support by council for its community contributions. Kennedy asked about using part of the \$8,000 budgeted for events, which was available because of municipal event cancellations such as the Frost Festival and New Year's Levy due to the pandemic. Swannell said \$2,000 is set aside for grant requests for organizations to hold events and council (with McKechnie asking for \$5,000) voted for the transfer. This transfer won't affect the tax levy.

Roberts complimented everyone involved in the budget process.

"Very good conversation council. Really, I think we can all see that we're working hard and trying to respect each other. We all have a difference of opinion, but once we land on a budget and once we land on that discussion we support our staff going forward and I think it's great that we're able to pass a budget in February," she said. "That is quite an accomplishment considering staff have been working on this since September/October, but it is great to be passing it at this time of year. So, thank you everybody."

Taxes are based on needs of the municipality

from page 1

benefits and an increase of 8.8 per cent for general insurance.

"There have been lots of increases, but only a 1.48 per cent increase at the bottom line. It is awesome holding the increase to 1.48 per cent," Councillor Cameron McKenzie said. He also asked if the drop in policing

costs by 2.19 percent, \$1,183,699 in expenses, will impact service levels. Hunter confirmed it would not.

"It is good MPAC is holding off on increasing market values," Deputy Mayor Cec Ryall said. He expressed concern that his home has doubled in value and most other people would be in the same situation. "Is there any indication how this will be handled," he asked Hunter. "I think everyone is going to face this over time," she said. There has been no announcement from MPAC yet but she explained that the tax rate is based on a weighted assessment. Taxes required are based on the

needs of the municipality. So, if the assessed values of property increase, the tax rate may decrease.

Graphics that were part of the budget highlights package, showed that the net taxation requirement for the municipality for 2022 is \$6,749,850. The breakdown among departments revealed that roads at 42.67 per cent, represents the largest chunk of the budget. Policing comes in second at 17.39 per cent, general government next at 14.47 per cent with parks and recreation and facilities at 13.03 per cent and fire following at 12.49 per cent, and waste at 10.36 per cent.

One notable change is a four per cent user fee increase for water/wastewater in 2022, which is according to the financial plan. Additional Canada Community Building Funds received in 2021, amounting to \$75,000, will be utilized for new pumps for a backup pumping station, electrical upgrades flow meter, controls etc.

The overall dollar increase in the 2022 budget over the 2021 budget is \$146,232.

The residential property rate comparison shows that on a property assessed at \$100,000, the total taxes in 2022 would be \$515.00, compared to \$507.50 in 2021.

Mayor Dave Burton expressed gratitude to Hunter and all the department heads and other staff for all their hard work in putting together a workable budget.

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Construction values for Dysart et al hit record high

Building permits valued at almost \$100 million in 2021

STEPHEN PETRICK

Special to the Echo

The following are news briefs from the Municipality of Dysart et al regular council meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 8, held virtually.

Dysart et al issued 607 building permits in 2021, representing a construction value of just over \$98 million dollars, a never-before-seen figure in its annual building permit activity report. It's a sign that money is being spent in the municipality and the economy is poised to grow.

"People are spending money here and it's not a bad thing," said Dysart chief building official Karl Korpela, while delivering the report to councillors.

Mayor Andrea Roberts was excited with the news.

"I can't believe it's just shy of the \$100 million mark," she said. "That's incredible."

Korpela said the amount of spending is partly due to increased costs to construction in general. However, he said people are building "substantially bigger cottages."

He said typically a few above average cottages are built in the municipality each year, but this year there were several.

Between 2017 and 2020, the building permit value was in the \$50 million range each year. The number of permits was highest in 2018, when there were 524 builds. The report also showed that there were 116 new dwellings built in 2021. Thirty-two were classified as primary residences and 84 were seasonal residences.

One month into 2022, it appears as though construction is not slowing down. Twenty permits were issued in January, for a total value of just over \$4.7 million. Eleven of those permits were for major residential properties.

Landfill sites to be monitored after incidences of vandalism

Dysart et al council heard last week that there's evidence of trespassers at the Haliburton and Harcourt landfills. The two landfills "have been experiencing after-hours illegal trespassing, scavenging and vandalism," said John Watson, Dysart et al's environmental manager.

His report showed a picture of a pylon that had seemingly been thrown through a now-broken window in a shed at the Harcourt site.

Council approved spending \$3,100 to put up security cameras at the two sites. The money had already been budgeted for in the 2022 budget.

"Seems like the way of the world," Mayor Andrea Roberts said. "That's what we have to do to protect our assets."

Dysart's landfills continue to be well used. Another report from the public works department delivered at the Feb. 8 meeting showed that in 2021 Dysart's five waste management sites recorded 203,937 vehicles, compared to 198,635 vehicles in 2020. This represents a three per cent increase in vehicle traffic.

Also, in 2021, Dysart hauled 7,204.41 metric tonnes of waste materials (including recycling, household hazardous waste, and garbage), compared to 7,213.66 metric tonnes in 2020. This represents a 0.16 per cent decrease in metric tonnes managed.

There was a five per cent decrease in Blue Box (recycling) materials hauled, a five per cent decrease in construction and demolition waste hauled, but a 39 per cent increase in the amount of garbage hauled.

Head Lake Rotary Park expected to be busy this summer

Dysart et al's recreation, parks and events department is gearing up for a normal summer, as it's now focusing on the return of the Haliburton County Farmers' Market and special events to take place at Head

see TRAVELLERS page 4



Clear the way

Dysart et al roads department workers clear snow from Maple Avenue before the rush hour in the Village of Haliburton on Monday, Feb. 7. The accumulation of snow was from two major snow events a few weeks ago, which left several inches of snow behind. The cleared sidewalks and roads are well in advance of this coming long weekend./DARREN LUM Staff

ADVERTORIAL

A CELEBRATION OF COLOUR Haliburton Home Hardware to feature local artists in innovative project

by Martha Perkins

As a marquetry artist, Kevin Dunlop created magic with varying shades of brown.

Using only tiny slivers of natural wood as his palette, he pieced together richly detailed landscapes and portraits.

"I never had the luxury of being able to work with a complete colour wheel," he says. "I had to take what was put in front of me, which gave me the opportunity for original thought. I might not have had many colours but I could get a density. A certain grain pattern could make it feel light and airy; a different grain pattern could make it feel heavy and oppressive."

People wandering through the paint aisles at Haliburton Home Hardware will soon be able to appreciate Dunlop's talents. Not only will he be the first artist profiled in the new Colour of the Month series but, as one of the store's paint advisors, he's also helping home renovators navigate the hundreds of colour choices available to them.

Dunlop started working at the store's paint department in November. He'd often meet his former Studio Tour customers and realized he had a perfect showcase to enhance customers' appreciation of the deep talent pool of artists and artisans who call Haliburton County home. "I believe our customers would like to know what local Haliburton artists have to say about colour."

He came up with Colour of the Month: he would approach local artists and ask them to choose a colour that intrigued them. To illustrate what they loved about that colour, the artist's work would be on display in a four-foot-by-eight-foot space in the paint department. "For instance, maybe a potter would pick colours out of the glaze of their pottery. It would be an opportunity to show how customers could use wall colours to impact their own spaces."

His supervisor smiled at the suggestion. The store's owner, Dan Moulton, had just mentioned to the supervisor that he wanted the store to highlight the Haliburton School of the Arts in some way. (Moulton has also recently made a \$25,000 donation to the beloved Haliburton Highlands Art Center Foundation).

One of the things that excites Dunlop is being able to introduce customers to how much creative talent can be found through-



Photo credit: Karley Gazley

out the county. "I hope we'll be helping the artists, especially the new ones, to give them some exposure and introduce them to some potential clients and sales. We're going to open it up to participants if they want to sell their work; we'd handle that for them."

Why colour matters

Several years ago, the Echo's arts columnist, Marion Hare, wrote about how colour choices in our homes was an often undervalued expression of our creativity. We might not be able to paint, but we could use paint to tell a story.

Dunlop agrees.

"I think our response to colour is an innate human reaction; our draw to colour is intuitive and instinctive," he says. However, many people lack the confidence in choosing colours — including which of the 40 shades of white that are available to them. "I'm hoping that by having artists come in and showing people different possibilities, it might tweak customers' imagination to look in other directions. I want to be able to help them express themselves."

Some customers come into Dunlop's department knowing exactly what they

want. Others appreciate the way he's able to coax ideas out of them.

"We really try to get the mood and the feel for the people who come in," he says. "It can be daunting to narrow down what they might want."

"We'll spend some time with colour chips. You can get some pretty strong emotional reactions from some colours, whether it be negative or positive. This helps me to start understanding their palettes and what they might be looking for. If people are painting their basement, we talk about the light that might or might not be down there, and how you can choose colours that might give that room the sense of light that it's missing."

Technology can help, too. Recently, an expectant mother came into the store. She brought with her a baby blanket that she planned to use in the nursery. Dunlop was able to scan the blanket and come up with a pink paint that matched the blanket perfectly.

As much as he wants to help customers understand colour better, Dunlop says that when it comes to their colour preferences, there's no wrong answer. "There's just trusting what feels right to you."

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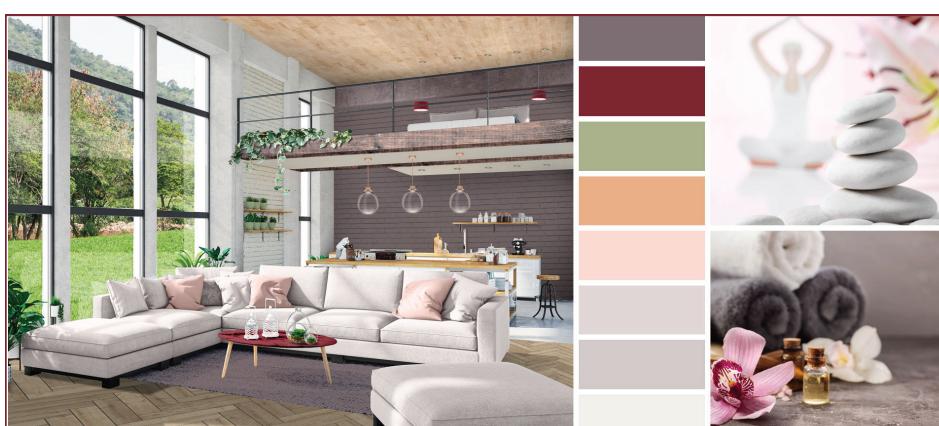
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Province ending vaccine passport mandates

DARREN LUM

Editor

“

Today's announcement is not because of what's happening in Ottawa, or Windsor, but despite it.

—Premier Doug Ford

Ontario is scrapping its proof-of-vaccination system as of March 1 and has moved up the second stage of the province's reopening plan by four days on Feb. 17.

Premier Doug Ford, who made the announcement during a press conference at Queen's Park on Monday, said capacity limits will be lifted in all settings where a proof of vaccination is required, including restaurants and cinemas.

Businesses can maintain mandates, and masking requirements will remain in place. Proof-of-vaccination will still be a requirement for visitors and staff at long-term care facilities. Any further restrictions will be determined by local public health units.

Ford said these latest measures are not the result of the occupation in Ottawa or the border blockade in Windsor.

"Today's announcement is not because of what's happening in Ottawa, or Windsor, but despite it," he said.

The exception to the end of capacity limits will be sporting venues, concert venues and theatres, which will have

capacity limits increased to 50 per cent. The province will allow social gatherings of 50 people indoors and 100 people outdoors. Capacity limits for other indoor public settings, which includes grocery stores, pharmacies and retail stores, will remain the same or be increased to the number of people who can stay two meters apart.

The provincial vaccine certificate system, requiring people to show proof of receiving two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine to enter a non-essential business was started in September.

Travellers must tread lightly

from page 3

Lake Rotary Park.

Council heard the department plans to have vendors set up booths on both sides of Head Lake Park on Farmers' Market days in 2022, which will help with traffic flow and to accommodate more vendors.

Also, council has directed staff to come up with a new fee structure for groups looking to use Head Lake Rotary Park for special events. At issue is the cost council should charge for the use of washrooms, as councillors want to ensure rentals do not drain tax revenues.

Council also approved the Haliburton Highlanders Time Traveller's the use of the park for their Cruise Nights this summer.

These Cruise Night events are a showcase of classic cars. They take place on Thursday nights in the summer, usually from June to September, weather permitting, and providing it doesn't interfere with other town events.

The Time Travellers had been asked to set up at different locations in the past, due to concerns about ruining the grass, but council agreed they could return to the park after events manager Andrea Mueller pleaded on their behalf and said

the group's members, which numbers 96, don't drive their cars roughly on the grass.

Museum reopens

The Haliburton Highlands Museum re-opened on Feb. 1 after being shut down for January, to curb the spread of COVID.

"We are already seeing visitors returning and we anticipate a busy remainder of the winter," wrote museum director Kate Butler in a report to Dysart et al council. "Work also continues on the ongoing care and conservation of the museum's ever-growing collection."

Butler wrote that the museum may be able to offer March Break programming. The museum is also expecting a busy summer, but Butler wrote that the museum may not have a summer student, which may impact the amount of programming it can offer.

The Museum is located at 66 Museum Road.

Butler, excitedly, said that 2022 is expected to be the first year in two years that things are "normal" at the museum.



Have a thought, comment or opinion you'd like to share?

Send a letter to the editor to
darren@haliburtonpress.com

Extendicare plans new long-term care home by 2025

SUE TIFFIN

Staff Reporter

A new long-term care home is expected to be built in Haliburton County, with almost 70 new beds added, by 2025. The project will enable Extendicare to replace its current facility and build a brand new 128-room long-term care home at a yet unchosen site.

Laurie Scott, MPP for Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock made the announcement about funding for new and refurbished beds virtually on Feb. 14 alongside Paul Calandara, minister of long-term care, Liz Daniels, warden of Haliburton County and Dr. Michael Guerriere, president and CEO of Extendicare Inc.

Guerriere said the new beds will more than double the capacity of Extendicare in the area. A new home on a new site is being planned with construction expected to start in fall 2023 and current residents and staff will move to that building once it is built, with plans for additional staff and residents with the increase in capacity.

While a site location has not yet been chosen, Guerriere said there were several options being looked at, and he anticipated the project to be completed in less than three years.

Currently there are 60 beds at Haliburton's Extendicare, which is located at 167 Park Street in Haliburton.

"We know the pandemic has highlighted the longstanding challenges that faced the long-term care sector for decades, and that's why we're continuing to deliver on our promise to fix long-term care across the province, including here in Haliburton County," said Scott at the announcement.

She said the provincial government's "plan to fix long-term care" is built on three pillars: improving staffing and care; protecting residents through better accountability, enforcement and transparency; and building modern, safe and comfortable homes for seniors, noting this week's announcement focuses on the third goal.

She thanked the frontline staff at Extendicare Haliburton for "their hard work and dedication to resident care throughout the pandemic," and "their

tireless efforts, every single day."

"Our government has a plan to fix long-term care and a key part of that plan is building modern, safe, and comfortable homes for our seniors," said Calandara, in a press release issued after the announcement. "When this long-term care home in Haliburton is completed, 128 residents will have a new place to call home, near their family and friends."

Calandara said during the briefing that "a home isn't a home until we have the staff inside the homes to make it that," and reiterated a past announcement of investing in additional direct care per day per residents with an increase of staff.

Daniels said the county was excited about the announcement, saying the issue of long-term care improvement is critical.

"This is something that the Eastern Ontario warden's caucus has been putting a great deal of emphasis on over the last several years, and to see the province responding to this need in such a timely way is truly gratifying," she said. "I understand the issue of available land

remains undecided and the county will do all it can to assist Extendicare to find an appropriate location."

"This home will be built with state-of-the-art design standards to meet the current and future needs of seniors," said Guerriere. "It will offer more space to connect with loved ones, increased privacy and a comfortable environment more conducive to resident quality of life. Enhanced resident activity areas and flexible space for restorative and palliative services will make a meaningful difference in the care seniors receive in this community."

Guerriere said with the support of the province, Extendicare has been able "to make significant steps toward our goal of replacing all of our older homes in Ontario."

Extendicare is also providing placements for 1,600 students in 2022, he said, to help with the effort to educate and support new caregivers.

Along with the 68 new and 60 upgraded beds allocated to Extendicare Haliburton, the government also announced an additional 96 new beds at an Extendicare home in Lindsay.



Protesters acknowledge drivers honking their horn in approval of the student walkout to lift vaccine mandates at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School on Friday, Feb. 11 in Haliburton. There were close to two dozen students and several adults who stood from close to 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. This was part of an effort for a provincial-wide walkout at schools. /DARREN LUM Staff



A protester holds a sign during the student walkout held at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School on Friday, Feb. 11 in Haliburton. /DARREN LUM Staff

HHSS students walk out Friday

DARREN LUM

Editor

Less than a week after the 'Haliburton Freedom Convoy' hit the roads, a walkout with close to two dozen students was held at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School front of the town train facing Head Lake this past Friday (Feb. 11).

The group, which included several adults, waved Canadian flags, jumped and shouted when passerby vehicles honked their approval for the protest to

end the government restrictions to reduce the transmission of COVID-19. This was part of a social media effort to get students across the province to leave school to support the other "freedom" efforts such as the blockade in Windsor and the protest in Ottawa.

HHSS Grade 12 student Darian Maddock said he was happy with the turnout after only two days of notice, delivered through social media.

He said the walkout was about moving forward from restrictions.

"Basically, what we want to accomplish is just get people together. People who

want to express their views, their side of the story. You know what I mean? There's people here that are vaccinated, are unvaccinated ... It's not an anti-anything protest. It's just people who are ready to turn the page. So, everyone's come out, trying to support the cause."

He said the restrictions have made it difficult to socialize with friends in public. He cited how COVID-19 protocols prevented unvaccinated friends from going to a movie together with those that were not. Maddock noted it's important that there are conversations that are "open-minded and respectful towards both

sides" to happen.

"We're ready for COVID to be done. I know everyone's ready for COVID to be done. This is how we're expressing it," he said.

The students walked out of the school close to 2 p.m. and stayed in front of the train for 45 minutes before returning to school to depart for home. Maddock said this was likely a one-off protest.

This protest was part of a call out for all students to walk out in Ontario. Maddock said no students from JDHES came over to the high school.

points of view



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Forever in our memories: Creighton Feir

Control is about perception

WHAT IS CONTROL? I typically don't start anything I write for the newspaper with a question. I can count on my single hand the amount of times that has been the case in my near 20 years of journalism work, but here we are. Strange times, consistent with living during a pandemic, which has claimed close to 5.8 million lives world wide. It's a big number. Difficult to fathom. Maybe even too much to process.

The definition of control according to my *Quick Reference Oxford Dictionary* is the "power of directing" or "the power of restraining" or "means of restraint." Now my copy, with it's worn cover and dog-eared page corners, is going on two decades of use for its contents as much as it's thickness to serve as a platform for my computer mouse with my work setup. I doubt though that the definition has changed much, if at all.

We all have power.

It's there. I promise.

It's right there in our hearts. How we respond to losing control is up to us. This means to let go of what is happening to us and control how we react. Don't stay at home because it's negative 20 degrees Celsius. Bundle up, cover your skin and seize the day.

In Canada, there has been slightly more than 35,118 deaths and close to 3.1 million cases of COVID-19. Reading these figures doesn't truly convey the loss for the country, the provinces and the families that will forever be changed. Their names, ages and contributions to their communities are varied, but what is true of all of them is they will be missed. With our population density, it's easy to forget the big picture of this pandemic and how fortunate Can-

ada has been through this.

Losing control to a person or a situation is disempowering. It can be painful when you can't see a loved one, separated by a door or a window through circumstance beyond our control, which is bigger than we can fathom.

As history of pandemics has shown with the 1918 influenza pandemic, these things take time – about three years. Even back then there was a segment of the population that also looked to follow their own path. If you know your history, and saw the mistakes of the past, why repeat it? And, yet, here we are.

Let's not submit to what we can't control because of direction from others. Let's practice the restraint to forge the path together again. Let's not forget how far we have come to undo the efforts we all want to see culminate in a future that we can reflect on how to live without restrictive health measures that is safe for everyone.

Anger is real. Frustration is real. The power each of us wield to control how we react is also real. It's not easy to restrain the emotion of anger. It is important though. It helps not only others, but yourself. Recognize how you feel when you're angry. It takes energy. It robs us of the opportunity ... to be able to harness that energy to do other things, which is to be open to life, whether that's to partake in healthy physical activity or to just embrace what you already have, whether that is roof over your head, running water, electricity, or your loved ones.

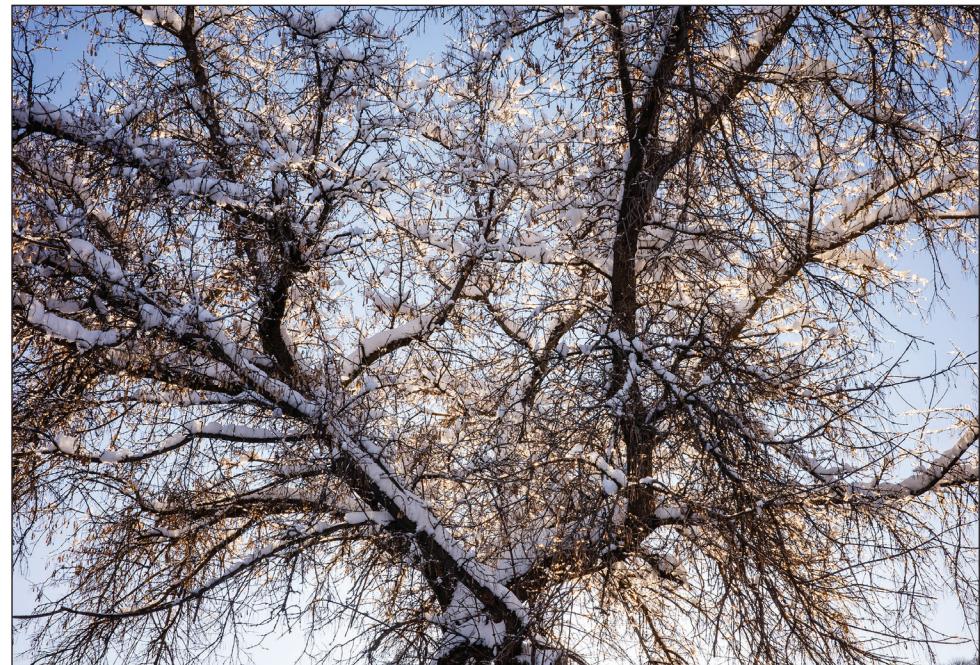
There is plenty to be thankful. And plenty we have control over.

*source World Health Organization



darren
lum

Editorial



Backlit beauty

by Darren Lum

Shadows

"**A**LL THE beauty of life is made up of light and shadow," Leo Tolstoy said.

In the field of energy medicine we work with the subtle body, the vast inner universe that is within each of us. Our energy system is the life force within us that animates our whole system and all of life that is around us. The energy system is made up of chi or prana, meridians, chakras, your aura and your radiant circuits. The radiant circuits are considered to be the foundation of the energy system. It is the deepest part of ourselves that is feeling and radiating joy throughout our whole being. Radiant circuits carry joy and are activated when we are in beauty such as a sunrise, sunset, being by the ocean, in the mountains, looking at the evening sky full of stars, digging in a garden etc. It is also activated when you are with someone you love, or are thinking of someone you love. It is activated whenever you are grateful and when we listen to beautiful music. When we have a feeling of joy running our system there is the possibility for immense healing to happen. I think we all know what it is like to have our heart slammed shut by some unkind words from someone or being angry at yourself. We all know the feeling of feeling joyful and open-hearted, and of being closed down. I work at staying open-hearted and having some joy running through me every day.

Some days it takes more effort

than others.

This morning Jim and I walked our dog under the early morning sky and the bright and shining sun. It was negative 29 degrees Celsius. As we walked over the top of the ridge we both stopped and just took in the shadows from the trees. It took our breath away. So quiet and still and calming. So familiar. I could feel my whole body relax.

Rumi says, "Let the beauty that you love be who you are."

We were standing in beauty. We laughed and Jim said that he loves the long shadows of February because he knows the warm days of spring are slowly coming. We talked about the

beauty of all the seasons that we have and how each season gives us something so magical to pay attention to. Right now we have the early morning and late afternoon light that inspires us. In the fall there are the changing leaves. Then there is spider web season. In

the spring the return of the maple syrup, flowers and the leaves. In the summer our garden and the long summer evenings give us beauty to pay attention to. It is all different and each equally inspiring. When our radiant circuits are humming we feel connected to life, to beauty, to our essential goodness and our eternal loveliness. I just love the possibility of this. No matter what life is giving us, we keep remembering that we can choose joy in our every day big and small actions. And that makes all the difference.

Tales from
the great



lynda
shadbolt

Green meadow

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points of view

Wordling

I WAS ENJOYING my second cup of coffee this morning when Jenn walked into the kitchen, where I was waiting to unleash a new phrase that I'm sure will catch on in a big way.

"Hello nerdle. How's the Wordle?" I said.

I'm not just telling you this to demonstrate that my level of coolness has not diminished with age. No, it's also to show that, unlike other middle-aged folks, when it comes to cool, I don't just talk the talk, I walk the walk. That's right, I play Wordle.

For those who have been living under a rock or who still have a life, permit me to explain. Wordle is new online word game that is trending. When playing, you have six attempts to solve a five-letter word. And every time you drop a word (that's how we cooler wordlers say it), the game tells you which letters are in the word and also which ones are in the right place, so you can narrow it down further on your next guess.

Wordle is good for me on many levels. First, because participation in it has allowed me to honestly look at a group of young people, wave my phone and yell, "That's right, I'm a playa!" And so long as they don't hear me quietly add, "of Wordle," they might actually believe it for a millisecond. It's also good because I have cracked the code. If it ever becomes an Olympic event – and I suspect it will – I will probably be asked to captain the Canadian team.

Most times, I win, without any effort at all.

Take yesterday's Wordle. I got that on my first try.

And though it is against my better judgement, I'm to give you a masterclass in how to do it.

To begin with, I casually walked into the living room and said, "Hey, Jenn, I see you are playing Wordle."

"Are you going to use this as another opportunity to call me a nerdle?" She asked. "Because that's not even a word, you know."

"I'm not going to call you a nerdle," I replied. "Hey, by any chance have you solved today's Wordle yet?"

"Yes, I did solve it. You?"

The next part takes a little subtlety and guile.

"Uh, oh sure," I said. "Yes, definitely.... I sure liked that five-letter word, especially how it had vowels in it. What was it again?"

"Cynic," she said.

And just like that, I was on my way to continuing my Wordle streak.

A few minutes later, after I re-entered the room to ask her if there is a Q in cynic, she actually tried to Wordle-shame me.

"What fun is there in cheating," she said.

I explained that I was not cheating. Rather, I was making use of the resources at my disposal to play the game more efficiently and at a higher level, much like members of the Russian Olympic Committee do.

"You're not fooling anyone. If not for this 'resource,'" she said, "you would start every Wordle game by typing 'farty' and giggling."

"Farty," I muttered. And then I giggled a bit.

"You're relying entirely on the work of others," she said. "When has that ever been useful?"

I looked at her and replied, "When participating in group projects, when implementing multi-level marketing schemes, when singing karaoke, when a grand piano needs to be moved, at tax time..."

She conceded and said, "Your Wordle winning streak is important to you huh?"

"Yes very important," I replied.

"Well then, there is a Q," she answered.



Loon Tales

steve
galea



pic of the past

The Dysart et al Fire Department's deputy chief Jack Hunter, from left, and its chief Sid Roberts stand with new equipment for the department in May, 1962. Submitted by Kate Butler of Haliburton Highlanders Museum.

Editorial resonates

To the Editor,

Thank you for your excellent editorial *Remember what's good* – just what we need to hear in these dark days as we all tire of two years of lock downs. . You covered it all - our village is a kind and helpful place to live and we should count our blessings that neighbours and strangers come forward to help be it a fire, stuck in a snowbank or

just helping an old person get the groceries in the car trunk. What better Valentine's could one get than the helping hand of a neighbour or a stranger. As the old song goes *Don't Worry Be Happy*. We will get through this.

Thank you Darren.

Joan Cameron
Haliburton

Big thanks to Canoe FM!

To the Editor,

The Volunteer Dental Outreach for Haliburton County (VDO) would like to express deep gratitude to Canoe FM for once again selecting our charity (among several others) as a recipient of Radio Bingo. This popular fundraiser recently added \$5,000 to our bank account, making it possible for us to continue to meet the dental needs of low-income residents. In 2019, we accepted a \$12,500 contribution from the same initiative.

With the ongoing support of organizations like Canoe FM, our volunteer dental professionals have been able to provide \$3.4 million worth of dentistry over 10 years. It's truly been remarkable to see our community pull together amidst these challenging times in support of multiple worthy causes. Haliburton County is a better place because of your generosity.

Sincerely,
VDO board of directors

Policing, left vs. right

To the Editor,

Do Canadian police forces respond equally to right versus left social movement protests, and civil disobedience?

Our media has closely followed policing of the "Freedom Convoy":

"RCMP and CSIS view a number of activist activities – particularly civil disobedience – as forms of attack. Blocking access to roads or buildings are framed as violence, depicting pacifists as national security threats." (*The Narwhal*)

"More than 1,100 people were arrested when thousands of police cracked down on protesters. An alarming number of incidents of illegal arrests, detentions and police brutality." (CBC)

RCMP deployed surveillance, militarized police patrols, helicopters, drones, heat-sensing cameras and a "media exclusion zone." Assault rifles were hidden on approach because the "optics" of the weapons were "not good." Children and elderly could be arrested. "No exception, everyone will be arrested in the area," necessary for "sterilizing [the] site." Instructions to "use as much violence as you want" and that "lethal overwatch" (deadly force approval) is required" were

issued. (*The Guardian*)

Wait, my mistake! The above speak to police response to left social movements and protests as follows: old growth forests in BC, the G20 in Toronto, and the peaceful Wet'suwet'en Nation opposing a pipeline through their unceded territory.

Trucker protest coverage appears below:

An injunction initiated by a 21-year-old resident the constant blaring of truck horns, not the Ottawa Mayor or the police. (CTV)

"there are illegal activities taking place ... violating Criminal Code and provincial laws," RCMP. (CTV)

Alberta RCMP referred to soft enforcement including ticketing, "you can't arrest your way out of the choices that people are making." (CBC)

Not convinced? Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation Chief Allan Adam has the final word: "If it was a First Nation standoff or blockade, I guarantee you the RCMP would have been in there in the first hour." (*Toronto Star*).

John Gibb
Minden

Letters to the Editor note: Submissions must not exceed 300 words, and are subject to editing for newspaper style and punctuation.

Multiple indicators showing Omicron wave plateau

SUE TIFFIN

Staff Reporter

The following are brief reports from a Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District health unit press conference with medical officer of health Dr. Natalie Bocking, held virtually on Feb. 9.

"We are seeing multiple indicators that things are improving and that COVID-19 transmission is decreasing," said Bocking. "[That's] something we have been hesitant to say for sure but I think we do have multiple indicators that are looking like it's moving in this direction, which really is a very welcome, welcome sign."

At the time of the briefing, there were 184 active lab-confirmed COVID-19 cases, Bocking emphasizing that PCR testing remains limited to those who work or live in high-risk settings. A decrease in lab-confirmed cases has occurred throughout the region, down from greater than 100 or more cases identified per day to about 20 or 30 daily cases.

"Moving in the right direction," said Bocking.

Test positivity has come down from about 12 per cent to 9.6 per cent and the HKPRD region is continuing to fare better than neighbouring jurisdictions, some of which still have test positivity rates higher than 10 per cent, said Bocking.

Nine outbreaks are currently in place, six of those at long-term care homes and the other three being at congregate settings or hospitals. Bocking said the health unit is now only declaring



Dr. Natalie Bocking, medical officer of health, speaks to media about COVID-19 updates at a Feb. 10 virtual briefing hosted by the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District health unit. / Screenshot

outbreaks in the highest risk settings, whereas before the Omicron wave outbreaks were also being declared within community settings, restaurants or among hockey teams, for example.

Tracking absenteeism in schools

Another factor Bocking said the health unit has been following to get a sense of overall general COVID-19 activity has been broader absenteeism in schools. She said the overall absenteeism percentage doesn't necessarily mean children are sick with COVID-19 or home with

it. According to provincial guidelines, the health unit will send letters home if a school reaches a certain threshold of absences – 30 per cent – at this point a few weeks back into in-person learning, of the 60 publicly funded schools in the region, only two have received those letters.

"It's really reassuring that we haven't seen wider spread concerns related to absenteeism in schools, which I'm quite happy to report," she said.

Wastewater surveillance

Wastewater surveillance in measuring viral activity in the Lindsay and Cobourg sewersheds has shown a relatively significant decline in viral activity, Bocking said.

"Again, leading to an overall much more optimistic picture," she added.

As provincial restrictions begin to loosen as per the government's reopening plan, Bocking said it might be possible to see a "slight increase" in COVID-19 infection.

"I don't anticipate we'll be going back to high numbers that we were seeing at the peak of this wave," she said. "I think we should expect potentially a bit of plateauing, but [I'm] really reassured in terms of seeing the light at the end of the tunnel related to this Omicron wave."

Impact of Omicron on morbidity, mortality

Bocking said looking at data from Jan. 1 gives a sense of the Omicron wave impact, given that it was likely the dominant variant by the third week of December.

Since the beginning of the year, 59 residents throughout the HKPRD region have been admitted to the hospital, 14 individuals have required ICU admission and there have been 23 deaths related to COVID-19.

Bocking stressed again that the majority of hospital and ICU admissions and deaths have been among individuals who are not vaccinated at all.

"Sharing these numbers to try and continue to encourage those individuals who have not sought vaccination yet to still do so, there's still plenty of opportunity, and to reassure and remind people that for those people who have been vaccinated, the important role that you have played in helping to prevent more serious outcomes associated with COVID-19 and to decrease the burden on our hospital system overall."

Almost 50 per cent of deaths have been among individuals 80 and older, and

among those admitted to hospital, close to 58 per cent have been over the age of 70.

COVID-19 has had a disproportionate impact on the lives of seniors in the community, said Bocking.

At this point in time, since Jan. 1, 8.5 per cent of local hospital admissions have been of residents from long-term care homes, and 10 deaths related to COVID-19 of long-term care residents have occurred.

"We certainly understand the Omicron variant to have a lower risk of severe illness, we're certainly not seeing the same extent of severe illness and death associated with COVID-19 as we did in the first wave, because we have vaccinations now and because we understand the virus better and we've been able to put in layers of protections to keep our most vulnerable community members safe."

Easy access to vaccination clinics

A booster dose does improve protection against COVID-19, specifically severe outcomes, said Bocking. She said the uptake of boosters across the province has contributed to preventing hospitalizations and death from Omicron.

Among those 70 and over across the HKPR region, 84.5 per cent have received their booster dose, while 72.3 per cent of people aged 50 and older have received their booster dose and 59.4 per cent of those aged 18 and older have received their booster dose.

Among children aged five to 11, 47.4 per cent have received their first dose of vaccine.

Vaccination clinics are open for walk-ins at any time for any dose, for any aged individual, with both mRNA vaccines available at all of the clinics in the region.

A need for cautious optimism

"While things are improving it doesn't mean we throw everything we've learned to the wind and pretend COVID's not here because we know this is not a benign virus, it's not mild by a long shot certainly for a large number of people so we need to be aware of that and work together to protect our most vulnerable community members," Bocking said.

Bocking noted that over the past two years, the same cycle of making it through a wave, feeling optimistic and then having a new variant emerge has repeated.

"There's certainly nothing right now to indicate that COVID is done," she said. "I think we will continue to see COVID, but the key is how we're able to manage COVID infections across the community and minimize the effect on the acute care system so we don't have to cancel surgeries or limit other health services. It's important to celebrate the small wins that we have and to be able to ease public health restrictions and hopefully look forward to a time where we won't need public health restrictions because we'll be managing COVID-19 on an ongoing basis and it doesn't require drastic measures to prevent our acute system from becoming overwhelmed."

As hard as the restrictions are, they do help to slow infection down, Bocking said.

"There are some things to celebrate that we've done well, some things to learn and some things to look forward to," she said.

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Glimmers of normalcy for staff, students at TLDSB

NICK BERNARD

Staff Reporter

There appears to be a light at the end of the pandemic tunnel, especially for students, teachers, and staff at Trillium Lakelands District School Board (TLDSB).

At their committee of the whole meeting on Feb. 8, the board heard a number of reports from across its schools, with the discussions lingering less on COVID-19, and more on the future.

Superintendent Tim Ellis expressed a spike in enrolment, which tied into a number of plans already in place, including a facility renewal plan that will see a modernization of many school facilities, with the aim of accessibility and disability management.

"With the unexpected spike of students across the board ... staff contemplated the best way to look, or deal with that increased spike in terms of what it looks like going forward," Ellis said, describing the process in which the board reported this expected growth to the Ministry of Education. He said the amount of growth expressed to the province also took into account possible departures in September. "So what we did is we decided to be consistent with our pre-COVID trends, and keep the numbers on a conservative level."

This was done, Ellis said, to ensure that the upcoming budget remains, as he calls it, "realistic". Ellis said despite the enrollment growth, he reported a small drop in the number of students.

"Just giving anecdotally what we are expecting, [we're] expecting elementary to drift slightly lower over the next few years as we have seen pre-COVID, but it will be pretty stable. We haven't seen any drastic declines for a number of years," he said. "That being said, we are aware that there [are] a couple of substantial housing developments ... and we are waiting to see when those developments are coming online, as well as what type of buildings, and seeing what the yields are coming out of that."

For 2022 and 2023, Ellis said the projected number of students across the board will be 11,151 at the elementary level, and 4,918 students at the secondary level.

In a series of updates from across the system, board superintendents painted a vivid picture of the mood and overall flow of activity in schools following a number of developments coming out of the pandemic.

TLDSB director Wes Hahn characterized a sense of optimism during a school visit that day.

"To see the positive outlook, the

positive excitement, the energy that's in our schools right now, very positive," Hahn said. He also commented on the successful implementation of the daily health assessment within schools, similarly characterizing it as a positive method of maintaining the quality of in-school learning.

Superintendent Paul Goldring provided a brief COVID-specific update, and expressed his own optimistic outlook.

"I'm very pleased to report that we have no schools and classes that have been pivoted to remote learning at this point," Goldring said. "We're continuing to work closely with our health units to monitor the percentage of student absences in our schools, and we're very optimistic about seeing things move in a positive direction in the next few weeks."

Goldring said there was a push to get vaccinations for students aged five to 11, with consent forms having been sent out to the families of those students. He said the health unit plans to conduct clinics based on where they see demand. Goldring also emphasized that no vaccinations will be given out without parental consent.

Adjusting to the new, old timetables

Secondary school students returned to a semestered, four-class-a-day schedule, following a condensed two-class quadmester system. Superintendent Kim Williams presented a number of anecdotal quotes collected from the semester's first day on Feb. 7.

"Of course, with any of our best plans, there's always glitches that need to be worked through," Williams said, acknowledging that while many of the quotes Williams collected were optimistic, there were still wrinkles in the carpet.

"Wow, the first day went by so fast," said one quote.

"I had a great day; I honestly prefer a full semester from an academic perspective, I think it's much easier to learn what we need to from a full semester," said another.

Many of the concerns from students were of a social nature, especially around forming groups and navigating the hallways between classes.

"Younger students didn't know where to go, or where their lockers were. It all seemed so chaotic," one student expressed.

Williams also reported on the positive return of some low-impact, school-based extracurricular activities, with the return of inter-school competitions on the horizon.



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Modernization funding announced for Haliburton County

The Haliburton County Paramedic Service master plan is getting a boost thanks to \$101,760 in provincial funding for the County of Haliburton's Project.

This funding is part of \$28 million the government is spending through the Municipal Modernization Program to support 322 projects that make the delivery of local services for residents and businesses more efficient.

Last week, Laurie Scott, MPP for Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock made the announcement about the funding in person to the Paramedic Service at the Haliburton base.

The Paramedic Service welcomed the funding. "Development of a comprehensive master plan for the county is extremely important for us to determine the future requirements of our ambulance service and community paramedic program so that we can continue to provide exceptional patient care to both residents and visitors in Haliburton County," said Tim Waite, director for Haliburton County Paramedic Service.

Haliburton County Warden Liz Danielsen said the master plan funding will help serve the community.

"For some time now, Haliburton has been experiencing substantially increased call volumes, pressures associated with transfers for diagnostics as well as managing the new community paramedicine programs," she said.



"Given the changing atmosphere we have found the need to carefully study our management structure, assess our existing bases and determine where

additional resources will be required. Haliburton has seen considerable growth and we need to carve out the best path to move forward and continue to offer

exemplary service to our residents."

- Staff

The Haliburton County Paramedic Service received \$101,760 of funding through the Municipal Modernization Program to the County of Haliburton to develop a master plan. In attendance for the announcement was the Paramedic Service's deputy chief Jo-Ann Hendry, from left, paramedic Taya Rigelhof, Haliburton County Warden Liz Danielsen, Paramedic Service's chief Tim Waite, MPP Laurie Scott, paramedics Paisley Shannon and Jennifer Williams. Photo submitted by the office of Laurie Scott.

YWCA Peterborough Haliburton receives \$150,000 in provincial funding

Two rural frontline agencies that support victims of domestic violence and

human trafficking that have seen a growing demand for services during the pan-

demic will receive funding totalling \$205,000 from the provincial government.

The YWCA Peterborough Haliburton will receive \$142,949 to support the Haliburton Emergency SafeSpace (HERS) program, along with an additional \$8,272 for training initiatives. The Kawartha Sexual Assault Centre will receive \$55,088 to deliver crucial services and supports to survivors of human trafficking and women who have experienced violence.

On Feb. 10, Laurie Scott, MPP for Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock and Dave Smith, MPP for Peterborough-Kawartha met virtually with Kim Dolan, YWCA Peterborough Haliburton executive director to make the announcement.

"We all know the pandemic has been tough and it's not only tough on our businesses and healthcare systems but also for women experiencing violence at home, and has caused a demand for increases in services and supports," Scott said. "This funding will provide agencies with more resources, help strengthen culturally responsive supports for Indigenous women, and reduce geographic and transportation barriers, which will significantly improve access to quality care and services to victims in our rural and remote communities. Whether someone lives inside or outside of the town of Haliburton or Peterborough County, they should be able to access the same quality of services."

Smith applauded Scott for advocating for support for victims, as well as Dolan for designing programs to help.

Dolan said that as a result of the pandemic there were challenges with increased rates in domestic violence, with a gendered impact in terms of economic security and women with more caregiving responsibilities.

"It's become as we know a more complex time of tremendous uncertainty and who could have imagined that three years later we're still facing the challenges of the pandemic," she said. She noted that during the pandemic, many have faced uncertainty about their jobs, or how they

can teach their children at home and some more than others.

"It's exacerbated in rural and geographically isolated areas when access to services or even neighbours, when connecting with community is minimized," she said. "I think all of the factors we've collectively experienced throughout the pandemic have magnified the reality and presence of gender-based violence. I think we've seen magnification of the really great things we've seen in our society and the things we need to work on."

When women living with violence are stuck at home, perhaps watching or teaching children and unable to leave, the monitoring of their behaviour is increased and the situation becomes more complicated for women to reach out, and for services to reach in, Dolan said.

The HERS program, she said, is operating at full capacity, with 10 staff members, many who pick up shifts alongside jobs they have in aligned sectors. Dolan thanked the team of "incredible women who showed up every single day to do work with and beside and on behalf of women in our communities."

From a press release issued by Scott's office, the funding is part of \$3.6 million the Ontario government is investing in rural frontline agencies to address the growing strain on services due to the pandemic, promote awareness of available local services, address service gaps and build community capacity to support women in rural and remote communities who have experienced violence and sex trafficking.

- Staff



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Stevens scores a pair as Huskies down Patriots 3-1

ALEX GALLACHER

Special to the Echo

Following a crushing loss to the Toronto Jr A Canadiens last Monday, the Huskies returned home to take on the Toronto Patriots for the first time ever at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena this past Friday night on Feb. 11 in Minden. With two straight losses, the Huskies looked to get back on track as the month of February continued. Following two goals by Christian Stevens and a 20 save performance by Christian Linton, the Huskies got back into the win column with a 3-1 win.

The Huskies wasted no time getting on the board, scoring with a little more than two minutes into the game when Bryce Richardson buried a rebound from a shot taken by Isaac Sooklal for a 1-0 lead. The first period blew by rather quickly as there were minimal stoppages in play.

The second was absolute chaos.

Sooklal got his first of three bookings by taking a slashing call. Fortunately for the Huskies, Toronto's Jonathon Mead was booked for holding a few seconds later to essentially cancel the visitor's powerplay. Toronto gave it their all, however nothing they tried seemed to work.

Sooklal was booked again after a hard collision sent one of the Patriots' players awkwardly into the boards. The game officials booked Sooklal with two minutes for boarding and ejected him from the game with a 10 -minute misconduct.

Christian Stevens doubled the Huskies lead after a rebound ended up on his stick and without looking buried the puck past Patriots' goalie Kyle Curtin. Huskies' forward Peyton Schaly finished the period in the sin-bin when he was sent off for a questionable goalie interference call, leading to a Patriots' powerplay goal to start the third.

An awkward shot taken by Patriots' Eric Bonsteel found its way onto the stick of his teammate McKay Hayes who buried it, beating Huskies' backup goaltender Linton. The goal ended his shutout bid and put the Patriots back into the hunt for a win. A few moments later, Patriots' forward Mead would make a run at Linton. To the ire of Huskies players and fans, Mead was not penalized and chirped the Huskies bench each chance he could.

With the game getting rougher, both teams clawed at each other's throats.

In his first game back from injury, Huskies' forward Lucas Marshall was playing with a leg brace. However, Marshall would also get dinged with a misconduct for head contact. He wasn't ejected, but forced to sit through a majority of the rest of the game in the penalty box.

As the minutes edged to the end of regulation, the Huskies added one final dagger to the hearts of the Patriots. Stevens scored his second in the game to seal the 3-1 win for the hometown team, with linemates Oliver Tarr and Patrick Saini picking up another pair of assists on the goal.

In the end, the Huskies were too much for the Patriots.

"I thought we played pretty well," Stevens said. "We were on the two game skid, but I think we were ready for it. We had a good morning practice and I'm happy we got the win. I think it's good to have these games in the regular season, as this is pretty much playoff hockey. It gets us prepared for playoffs so it's good."



Haliburton County Huskies forward Nick Athanasaskos works to get free of Toronto Patriots defenceman Hunter Svicki's hold during Ontario Junior Hockey League action on Friday, Feb. 11 at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena in Minden. The Huskies beat the Patriots 3-1./DARREN LUM Staff



Haliburton County Huskies forward Joe Boice battles for a loose puck with Toronto Patriots defenceman Ethan Eliopoulos.

On the road

The Huskies then travelled to Toronto on Saturday for a rematch against the Jr A Canadiens. This time, however, the Huskies had their number. Goals from Lucas Stevenson and Simon Rose helped to cement a 36 save shutout 2-0 win for Christian Cicigoi.

The Huskies will return to the S.G.Nesbitt Memorial Arena on Tuesday, Feb. 15 for a 7:30 contest against the Caledon Admirals. This will be the first home meeting between the two squads, as the Huskies were meant to face the Admirals on New Year's Eve, however that game was rescheduled.

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Highland Storm rep under-13 player Jaxen Casey upends a Woodville Hurricanes forward.

Storm clash with Hurricanes

Highland Storm rep under-13 player forward Evan Perrott, who scored the team's first goal, rushes the puck against the Woodville Hurricanes in minor hockey action on Wednesday, Feb. 9 at the A.J. LaRue Arena in Haliburton. Storm goals were also scored by Deagan Davison, Henry Neilson, Eric Mueller and Vanek Logan, who scored the equalizer with 33 seconds left in the game, enabling the home team to tie the visitors 5-5./DARREN LUM Staff





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February 21 @ 2:30 p.m.
vs Lindsay Muskies

February 25 @ 7:30 PM
vs Toronto Patriots



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Staff shortages could cause temporary library closures

Board members broach topic of reducing number of branches

SUE TIFFIN

Staff Reporter

Library patrons are being asked to ensure the branch they're headed to is open prior to visiting, as temporary closures could occur due to staffing shortages.

Chris Stephenson, Haliburton County Public Library CEO and chief librarian, told the library board at a Feb. 9 meeting that since he joined in September, branch staff has decreased from 16 employees to 10.5 - one person has shared duties in the administration office.

"We've dodged a lot of bullets in the time that I've been here," he told the board. "COVID notwithstanding, we've also had plenty of absences, retirements, people scaling back their hours for study or other purposes and then of course COVID - fears of exposure within families, through the schools and other workplaces. All of this has come to mean that, it's putting pressure on the number of people we have, the number of slots we need to fill in order to keep the branches staffed adequately."

The library system requires at least 11 staff members to operate six active branches, and one depot of library lockers.

"That's not a comfortable amount, however," Stephenson told the *Echo*. "With 10.5 staff, we have no extra staff members standing by in case someone has a transportation issue or calls in sick on any given day. Many of our branch staff were hired with an expectation of helping us fill on-call hours, but when the pool has diminished, those people are filling regularly scheduled shifts and there's simply no one else to call on."

Stephenson said administrative staff has stepped in when possible to staff the branches, but that results in their own work being put aside. He is also being briefed on using the integrated library system himself so he can assist where and when possible.

Some patrons have reached out to Stephenson, dissatisfied that curbside service only had been available at some branches due to restrictions and public health measures during the province's modified version of Step Two of the Roadmap to Reopen in January.

"We did fully intend to bring those branches back online for browse and borrow, but of course if there's no one physically to be there for either curbside or stationing themselves at the branch ... I just need to be honest," he said. "We don't have enough people."

Stephenson said hiring is the long-term goal, and he has put in a request with the county to fill 2.5 positions. His focus, he said, is to re-establish what existed years ago with community members living and working near the branch "serving their communities" in branches there, rather than staff driving across the county to work shifts, and driving mileage up.

"We really hope to hire people in Cardiff, Highland Grove, Gooderham, to manage those branches," he said.

Algonquin Highlands Mayor Carol Moffatt, who sits on the library board, asked if the staffing challenge is temporary, or if it's "developing segue into the elephant in the room which needs to be discussed, which is how many branches can stay open in perpetuity in the current climate



The Haliburton County Public Library board met virtually on Feb. 9. /Screenshot

and under the current budget."

Algonquin Highlands Deputy Mayor and County Warden Liz Danielsen said it was important to talk about the number of branches in the county, noting that Highlands East has four branches and circulation is not high in some of them.

"We need to face the fact that something has to give," she said. "That's not taking away from the fact that we want local people in local branches, but I think that's the perfect solution. Can we continue to support four branches in Highlands East?"

Dysart et al Mayor Andrea Roberts said it's a difficult conversation, one that has been broached in years past, but said "this is the time to be having this discussion, it really is."

Highlands East Deputy Mayor Cec Ryall said there was no question the discussion needed to be had, but questioned if late into the library's board meeting that day was the time to have it.

"I don't disagree that it needs to be discussed," he said. "But I also am saying that this is not the meeting to do that in. I think we need to set up a separate meeting, where we look at what options are available. Things that have been tried here, things that have been tried in other places that replace it, and that would be the sole subject for that particular meeting."

He said there would not be support from Highlands East to justify closure, but that a discussion about "alternate supply, alternate resources, different ways of getting things done, that would be silly not to discuss."

Stephenson said he did not expect the discussion to "go in this direction," but understood the history of the local

library system and challenges faced post-amalgamation.

"I did speak with a community member from Highlands East just this morning and he reiterated how important the library was to him and the fact that he needed to be able to walk there," Stephenson said. "I understand there are some challenges. But what I can bring to the table in a future meeting is statistics, and facts about where we're at currently. And also offer some advice about what could be done."

Board chair Sally Howson suggested setting that discussion aside as an agenda item slated for a separate meeting, in which information on which to base the discussion could be brought forward including alternatives for service delivery that hadn't been available in the past.

Board member David O'Byrne acknowledged that numerous public sector organizations in Haliburton County are currently dealing with staff shortages and temporary closures.

"This is not uncommon, we're not unique, and if we have to close, we have to close," he said of the potential for temporary closures. "There's nothing we can do about it."

Regarding temporary branch closures due to staff shortages, Stephenson told the *Echo*: "As with weather conditions, we advise that people check our website or social media before heading out to their local branch. And this is important in the coming weeks, to make sure a branch isn't closed due to staff shortages. In each case of a closure, the banner at the top of our website ([at haliburtonlibrary.ca](#)) will be changed to indicate whether a branch is impacted."

Haliburton County rejects idea of vaccine policy

STEPHEN PETRICK

Special to the Echo

Haliburton County won't have a firm vaccine policy for its staff, but councillors say the county will continue to advocate for most public health guidelines, such as masking and distancing.

The thorough policy prepared by staff and delivered by chief administrative officer Mike Rutter died at the Wednesday, Feb. 9 council meeting, held virtually.

Councillors tensely debated the merits of the policy for more than half an hour, but ultimately decided that a mandate directing staff to be vaccinated presented too many legal quagmires and seemed unnecessary, given the shifting nature of the pandemic.

The thought of going ahead with a policy seemed to shift when Rutter received and delivered advice that Ontario public health officials were recommending, but not mandating, municipalities have staff vaccine policies in place.

"We're just into crazy land here," said Algonquin Highlands Mayor Carol Moffatt, summing up the frus-

tration. "I don't know how we can pin the tail on the donkey without it being motherhood."

Many councillors offered their apologies to Rutter and staff for working on the policy, and none at the table voiced any objections to COVID vaccines in general. But as the discussion lingered, it was clear that none of the eight voting councillors were in favour of the policy.

Warden Liz Danielsen allowed each councillor to share their thoughts. In the end a recorded vote wasn't necessary because the policy had clearly lost support from all voting members.

Council first started debating the policy during a meeting in November, but deferred a vote and asked staff to seek more legal opinions, such as how the policy should be implemented for new staff and how it would apply to an elected councillor who is unvaccinated.

Councillors made it clear that the nature of the pandemic has changed dramatically since that meeting. They noted that other provinces are scaling back pandemic measures and the question of what is considered vaccinated (two doses or three doses) is also in question, so a policy mandating staff to be vaccinated was becoming more troubling than its worth.

"I don't think this is necessary to have at this point,"

said Minden Hills Deputy Mayor Lisa Schell, who was the first to speak up against the policy.

Moffatt, another strong critic of the plan, said she supports vaccines, but "I can't support job losses, that's going too far. We will never convince those who are unconvinced. There's no point in beating a dead horse."

Minden Hills Mayor Brent Devolin said, referring to the changing political landscape across the county, "I know we need to do this, but they're changing the rules so fast."

The proposed policy would have asked that "employees, council and committee members, volunteers, students and contractor employees who work in direct contact with county staff, to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19."

Dysart et al Mayor Andrea Roberts suggested that the lost vote doesn't mean Haliburton has to reject all public health measures; she pointed out that the policy was only to address vaccines and that the county can still advocate that its staff follow public health guidelines, such as masking and distancing.

Dysart et al Deputy Mayor Pat Kennedy also said that it's important the county still work on a generic health and safety policy.

HE awards telecommunication contract this fall

CHRIS DROST

Staff Reporter

The following news briefs from the Highlands East Council regular meeting on Feb. 8, held virtually.

When it comes time to vote in this fall's municipal elections, voters in Highlands East will be able to carry out their public duty from the comfort of their own homes.

Highlands East awarded the contract for an internet/telephone voting system for the 2022 municipal election and school board election to Scytl Canada Inc. at the regular meeting.

Following approval by council in May 2021 to proceed with internet and telephone voting for the 2022 municipal and school board election, staff developed a request for proposal. The resulting report was reviewed on Dec. 14, 2021.

The approximate cost for the internet and phone voting will be \$2.75 plus HST per voter.

All four of the local municipalities have now chosen Scytl Canada Inc. as the successful proponent for the 2022 Internet/Telephone Voting System.

"You know I was leery of this back in the day. What will we do to ensure there will be enough education on this?" asked Deputy Mayor Cec Ryall. Clerk Robyn Rogers explained that most of the education will come from the municipalities. There will be information sessions, adver-

tising and a brochure that will go out with the Highlands East tax bill. The step-by-step process will also be on the website.

"We realize the low coverage of internet but we believe most people have a telephone," Rogers said.

The municipal clerks will be meeting regularly and will set up a schedule for information sessions.

being constructed in Highlands East," Devolin explained.

"Do you foresee any challenges in service delivery?" asked Ryall. Devolin explained that getting documentation in was a challenge last year, but she does not foresee any issues with service delivery this year. "Keep up the good work," responded Ryall.

Home sea (container) home

Under the Bylaw Report presented by bylaw enforcement officer Wayne Galloway, Ryall asked if the municipality has any provisions for turning sea containers into homes.

"Does our bylaw allow that?" he asked.

Galloway says sea containers are not allowed in certain zones such as shorelines.

"You need a building permit if you want to convert a sea container to a home. The building department would have to address it," he added.

Getting the word out?

Environmental supervisor Meghan Lockwood took the opportunity to update the council about the boil water advisory that was issued in Cardiff on Feb. 3 when there was a loss of power at the water station. The issue was resolved and the boil water advisory was removed on Saturday, Feb. 5. There were problems with the generator that have since been resolved.

"I think staff did an excellent job in getting the word out. It is not easy to get the word out on a Saturday that [the boil water advisory] had been lifted. Maybe we need to think of a better way to get it out," suggested Councillor Cameron McKenzie.

McKenzie suggested the use of Moose FM radio for such announcements as they are often used by the Town of Bancroft.

"Except it wouldn't work on weekends when it [the radio program] is taped," he said.

Ryall asked about the possibility of adding a fingerboard to the sign in Cardiff when something like a boil water advisory is in effect.

"Megan [Lockwood] has already got a plan in place for advising people through social media. We are trying to promote technological ways to notify people instead of doing things that require staff to come out beyond regular working hours," CAO/treasurer, Shannon Hunter said.

Lockwood informed council that they have been experiencing heavier flows of water than usual and so public education around reducing water usage is being planned.

"Do you think people still leave a tap running so pipes don't freeze?" asked McKenzie.

Lockwood explained that this would be something that could be addressed through public education. "You only need flow as wide as a pencil [to keep the pipes from freezing]," she said.

Lockwood also reported that they have received the final inspection reports for both Cardiff and Dyno Drinking Water Systems from the Ministry of the Environment from inspections done last fall. Both systems had one non-compliance, which have since been resolved.

Winter maintenance looking good

There was good news from Brett Charboneau, operations supervisor at Public Works.

"The sand is holding up and I think we should have enough for the rest of the season," he said. The new sander in the truck is working well and they are finally back to full complement of staff after lots of illness and others in isolation due to COVID-19.

There have been people breaking into the landfill site after hours resulting in damage to the gates and shacks.

"We would like to look at cameras again after ensuring we follow the privacy policies. This is something we are going to look at this year," Charboneau said.

Open again

Under the Property and Facilities Report, property supervisor Jim Alden reported that staff have completed the deep cleaning of facilities. They have also been very busy with snow removal and walkway maintenance. A new part-time staff member, Kiel Dynes, was welcomed on Jan. 31. All facilities, including the arena are now open for business again and are being used at half-capacity until further notice.

Council also spent time reviewing the revised cemetery price list that will be included on the municipality's Stone Orchard cemetery software. The list will also be provided to all funeral homes and monument companies that have done business with the municipality in the past year.

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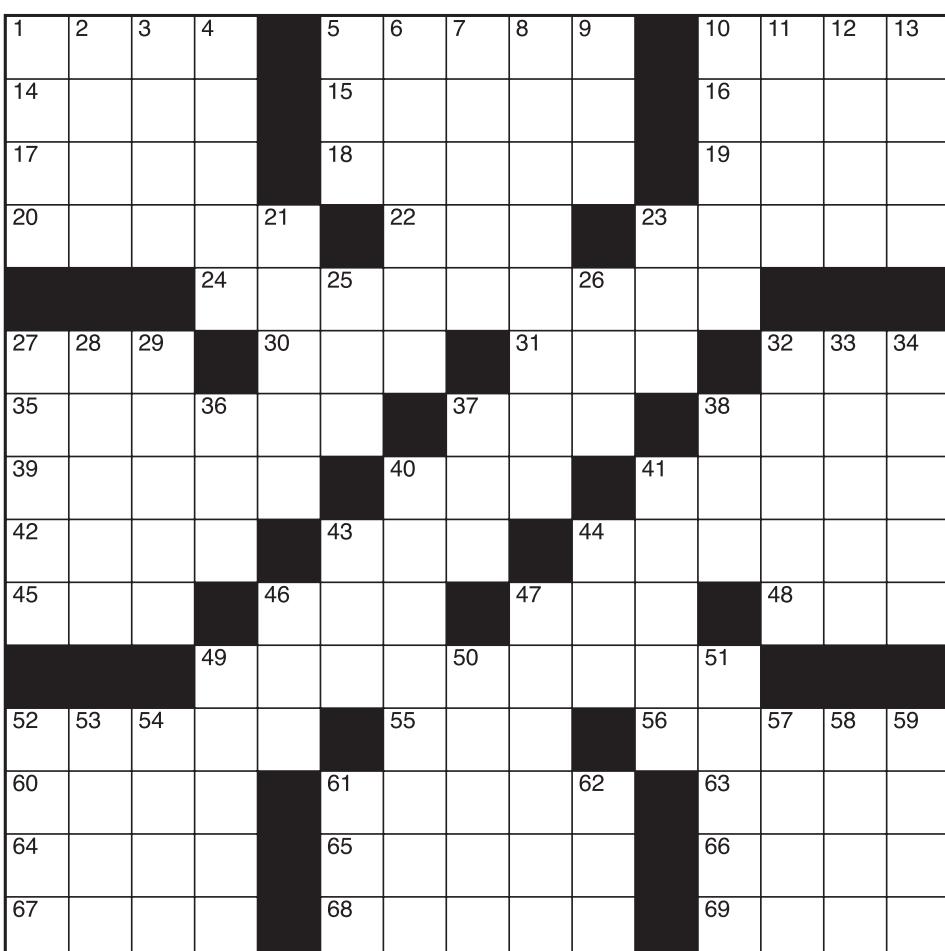
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CLUES ACROSS

- Type of footwear
- Studies a lot all at once
- Adventure story
- Hundred thousand
- Former U.S. Vice President
- Ruler
- Indian city
- Similar
- Ship as cargo
- Volcanic craters
- Boxing's "GOAT"
- Bullfighting maneuvers
- London soccer team
- Score perfectly
- No (Scottish)
- SoCal hoops team (abbr.)
- Woman (French)
- Unwanted attic "decor"
- Peter Griffin's daughter
- Broad, shallow crater
- Large instruments
- Low bank or reef
- __ and Venzetti
- Oil group
- Father
- Aggressive men
- Pairs well with green
- Travelers need it
- Digital audiotape
- Midway between northeast and east
- Chemistry descriptor
- S. China seaport
- Sound unit
- Heavy cavalry sword
- Thick piece of something
- Spa town in Austria
- Boyfriend
- Norse personification of old age
- Type of box
- Tie together
- Fiber from the coconut
- Chicago mayor
- Old English letters

CLUES DOWN

- Type of sauce
- Pattern of notes
- Plant with long seedpods
- Map out
- Numbers cruncher
- Make a mental connection
- Italian tenor
- N. America's highest mountain peak
- Witness
- Arabic given name
- Music awards
- "The Immoralist" author
- Area units
- Units of loudness
- Political action committee
- Bar bill
- Witch
- A theatrical performer
- 2-door car
- __ and flowed
- Papier-__ art medium
- City in Georgia
- Irregular
- College sports conference
- Angry
- Partner to cheese
- S. American mammal
- Self-immolation by fire rituals
- Split pulses
- Disfigure
- Cow noise
- Erase
- Chadic language
- Reward for doing well
- Paid TV
- Millisecond
- Other
- Colombian city
- Necklace part
- Every one of two or more people
- Regrets
- They come after "A"
- Horse noise

Answers on page 18

Summer Festival auditions are on

NICK BERNARD

Staff Reporter

Konstantin Stanislavski's theory of theatre offers the idea there are no small parts, only small actors. Here in Haliburton, the search for actors big and small is on, ahead of the 2022 season of the Highlands Summer Festival. Auditions begin Feb. 26 and 27 at Haliburton United Church.

This year's festival season is carrying over the program from 2020, which was delayed due to the pandemic. The lineup includes beloved musical *The Sound of Music*, Oscar Wilde's comedy *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and one-person show *Every Brilliant Thing*. Two other shows, *Lucien* and *Across The Pond* will also be taking the stage, with commissioned performers for each.

"We're looking for the two leads in the *Sound of Music*, *Maria and the Captain*," Festival artistic director Scot Denton told the *Echo*, "And all of the kids."

It's a sad story, Denton said, as the festival had cast those roles in 2020, only to have to defer. Casting for the children is particularly difficult, as the original actors have almost certainly grown in the two years that have passed.

"I said to the kids, you know, I'd like you to be able to play this role when we come back to do the show, but you're going to grow," Denton recalled, drawing the image of the seven Von Trapp children arranged by age in descending order. "And part of the drama-slash-comedy of the Von Trapp family kids is that when they come in, they're like a set of stairs."

By far the most experimental piece in the festival's lineup is *Every Brilliant Thing*.

Denton said the play was centered around a character who decides to write a list of things in life worth living to read to their struggling mother. The part, which Denton says is open to anyone

regardless of gender, requires a constant stage presence, with participation from the audience.

"You have to have the right person," Denton said, describing the part. "They have a script, but they have to be prepared to think on their feet ... At one point, the narrator person asks somebody to be his father, and they have to pick someone in the audience."

Denton says that of the 20-odd possible roles across all of the plays, 10 are already cast from before the two-year delay.

"We have a lot of roles to cast right now, much more than I thought," he said.

For those unfamiliar with the auditioning process, Denton says anyone interested can expect the process to be friendly and relaxed, but will also try to draw the best performance out of everyone.

"They would expect us to be friendly and welcoming, and [wanting] them to just take a breath," Denton explained. "Usually, if they're auditioning for the musical, we need to hear them sing something, even if it's ... the first few bars of *O Canada*, you know, just to hear the sound. If we think they're right for a role, we often ask them to take away a little bit of a scene, read it through a bunch of times, and come back in the room later on and read through it with us."

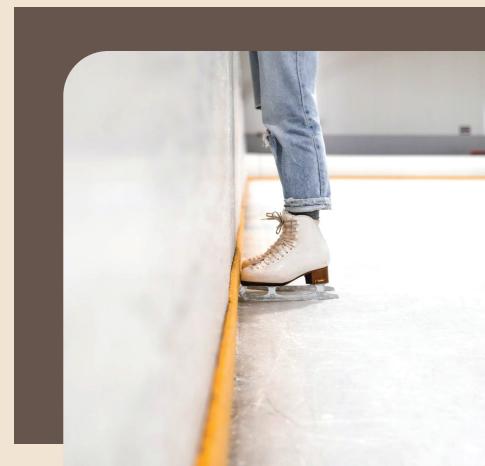
Denton also always encourages new faces at auditions.

"We love meeting new people. Sometimes people who have never been on stage before turn out to be very, very good at it," he said. "And they get a lot of support and training from us ... It's the training you get when you rehearse, like you learn from other actors and you learn from the director, and there's a lot of support."

A full list of roles, and a full rundown of the 2022 season of the Highlands Summer Festival, is available to view at www.hIGHLANDSSUMMERFESTIVAL.ON.CA.

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'Haliburton Freedom Convoy' rolls again

DARREN LUM

Editor

One week after the first "Haliburton Freedom Convoy" was held there was the second instalment of the procession of vehicles with people who are against the vaccine mandates and passports.

The convoy met up at 10:30 a.m. at Keranohan Construction in Minden. There were upwards of 100 vehicles estimated to have been part of the convoy according to the Haliburton Highlands detachment OPP. They left close to 11 a.m. for Haliburton, followed by Carnarvon and back to Minden.

Robyn Shaw, who participated in the first convoy and the one this past Saturday, said the second go-around "went pretty good" despite the "sped up" street-light in Carnarvon where the convoy experienced issues where only two or three vehicles could turn left at a time to head south on Highway 35 to Minden.

On Sunday before Doug Ford's Monday announcement, she expected the convoys to continue for as long as it takes for change.

"I believe the convoy will be a regular occurrence until we see real change in Ottawa. I know people are complaining about inconvenience, which is laughable considering the "inconvenience" felt by every person who chose to not [receive the] vaccine for two years. This convoy shouldn't even be necessary. People should have stood with us against the government from the beginning, but they didn't care because their rights weren't being violated. Which of course they were. They just believed the government, which you should be able to do but can't because they have proven time and again



A parade of vehicles travel down County Road 21 in support of what was happening in Ottawa, Windsor and Southern Alberta on Saturday, Feb. 12 in Haliburton. The procession of upwards of 100 vehicles that started in Minden, rolled on to Haliburton, then Carnarvon and back to Minden. /SUBMITTED

they don't care about their citizens," Shaw wrote in an online message.

The organization was done through the Haliburton Freedom Rally Facebook page with its 1,500 members. The group self-identify as #wethefringe and #slowroll-convoy. The page was also used to promote the student protest at the local high school on Friday, Feb. 11.

Shaw was proud of the students who walked out Haliburton Highlands Secondary School for the protest against vaccine mandates and passports.

"I had hoped for more but I think a lot of people are still nervous to stand up and I get that. We will stand for them until they're ready," she wrote.

The Haliburton Highlands detach-

ments OPP said with the exception of two warnings given to convoy participants for Highway Traffic Act violations, there were no reported incidents. Local traffic coming into Haliburton was backed up for a brief time. There has not been any notice received by the OPP for another convoy later this week.

Echo, Times nominated for provincial newspaper awards

The *Haliburton County Echo* and the *Minden Times* are finalists for several Better Newspaper Competition awards this year.

On Monday, Feb. 14, the Ontario Community Newspaper Association released its list of nominees for the annual provincial newspaper awards competition that recognizes "outstanding work."

The *Haliburton County Echo* was nominated for five awards, including general excellence award in its circulation category. Sue Tiffin is nominated for three writing awards in the feature writing, health and wellness, and heritage categories. The *Echo* and *Times*'s humour columnist, Steve Galea, has been nominated for Humour Columnist of the Year in the

competition.

The *Times*, the *Echo*'s sister paper, is a top-three finalist in the editorial writing category for an opinion piece by former editor Chad Ingram; for best feature photo by Darren Lum, and Kim Wark has been nominated for Cartoonist of the Year in the competition for her Kwartky series.

The *Echo* received an honourable mention for best vertical product, the Welcome to Haliburton County 2021 publication.

First, second and third place will be announced during a virtual presentation held Friday, April 29.

- Staff

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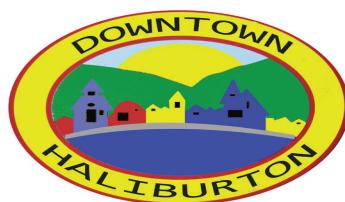


Notice of Fee By-Law Amendments

Dysart et al Council, at their February 22, 2022 meeting, will be considering changes to Fee By-Law 2021-83 to incorporate a fee structure for use of the Haliburton Welcome Centre Washrooms during events in the park.

Further information on these fee changes will be available on <https://www.dysartetal.ca/>.

Andrea Mueller, Manager of Programs and Events



The BIA is hosting its Annual General Meeting on Zoom. The meeting will be held online on Thursday, February 17, 7pm.

Please join us by emailing:
haliburtonbia@mail.com
Information on how to attend
will be sent to you.



Notice (Applicant - Litchfuss)

In the matter of the *Municipal Act* and in the matter of a proposed By-law of the Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East to close, stop-up and convey certain portions of the Original Shore Road Allowance along the shore of **Esson Lake**, more particularly hereinafter described.

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the *Municipal Act*, S.O. 2001, and the Municipal Procedures, that the Township Council of The Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East proposes to consider and if deemed advisable, to pass a virtual meeting on **Tuesday, the 8th day of March, 2022**, at 9:00 a.m., a By-Law to close, stop-up and convey to the adjacent land owners the following described lands:

Part of the Original Shore Road Allowance in front of Lot 21, Concession 17, Township of Monmouth, Municipality of Highlands East, County of Haliburton, shown as Part 1 on Plan of Survey 19R-10596 made by **Bishop Geyer Surveying Inc.**, completed June 24, 2021.

The Plan of Survey 19R-10596 is available to you for inspection by making an appointment at the Municipality of Highlands East offices, Wilberforce, Ontario.

The above described lands, by resolution, have been declared to be surplus. If you wish to attend the virtual meeting, please call or email the Municipal Clerk prior to the day of the public meeting so you can be provided with a link or phone number for the meeting. If you do not have the capability to attend a virtual meeting, please provide written comments to the Municipal Clerk prior to the public meeting.

Any person or his or her counsel, solicitor or agent who attends the virtual meeting shall be afforded an opportunity to make representations in respect of the within matter.

And Take Further Notice that if the public wishes to participate regarding the purchase of Shoreline Road Allowance please contact the Municipal Clerk.

Dated at the Municipality of Highlands East, Wilberforce, Ontario this 15th day of February, 2022.

Robyn Rogers, Municipal Clerk
Box 295, 2249 Loop Road WILBERFORCE, ON
K0L 3C0
rrogers@highlandseast.ca 705-448-2981

Remember all the heroes

community news west guilford

Eleanor Cooper
754-2278

Goodbyes are never easy and this time it's hard to say it to Becky Bamford past-owner of the West G. Pizza and Grill, which she had made so welcoming. Talk about a memory! June and I went up there over the summer and she told us what we'd ordered from several months ago. The pizzas were always exactly as ordered and always so good! The new owners may find it a hard act to follow, but we wish them well as they continue a well-run business.

Caregivers are not necessarily only PSWs. They can also be the people who help us when we need them.

They include my cousins who see to the garbage detail, the ones who takes my grocery list and delivers it, and of course my sister who drives me out to visit Kathleen twice a week. Until her mother died recently, Iris looked after her mother at home. Shirley Sisson's twin daughters shared alternate days caring for her. People share the snow-blowing or shovelling for family members or pick up groceries as needed when loved ones can no longer take the time nor have the energy for these vital tasks. There are many unsung heroes who deserve our thanks. You may not express it often, but it is much appreciated when given.

Clearing out, and sorting continues and that meant most recently parting with my 80th birthday cards.

I reckon that they were valued in the past seven years and don't owe me anything now. Next come the yarns and knitting needles: the Haliburton 4Cs Lily Ann may benefit from my hoarded supply. Favourite books will be the hardest to give up. I'm still a bookworm and new ones do come along. Thank goodness for libraries. That is all for now.



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The Plan of Survey 19R-10592 is available to you for inspection by making an appointment at the Municipality of Highlands East offices, Wilberforce, Ontario.

The above described lands, by resolution, have been declared to be surplus. If you wish to attend the virtual meeting, please call or email the Municipal Clerk prior to the day of the public meeting so you can be provided with a link or phone number for the meeting. If you do not have the capability to attend a virtual meeting, please provide written comments to the Municipal Clerk prior to the public meeting.

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Robyn Rogers, Municipal Clerk
Box 295, 2249 Loop Road WILBERFORCE, ON
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rrogers@highlandseast.ca 705-448-2981



For love

Carl Dixon plays *Here Comes the Sun* while participants gather around fire pits and enjoy beverages from the Love Potion Cabin at the Abbey Gardens' first annual Cupid's Carnival on Saturday, Feb. 12 at the former quarry located minutes from West Guilford. The entertainment lineup also included Lunar Bloom, Gord Kidd and Ian Pay, North of Seven, and Hank O'Reilly. The event proved to be a huge success, attracting approximately 400 people and raising more than \$5,000 for their children's programming, says organizer Ashley McAllister, who is the director of operations and strategic initiatives for Abbey Gardens. The event included specialty food such as BeaverTails, medium readings, pony selfies, tobogganing, shopping at the Vendor Market, and cold beer from Haliburton Highlands Brewing. /Photos submitted by Vivian Collings



Shoppers browse through the Vendor Market assembled in Haliburton Highlands Brewing at the Abbey Gardens' first annual Cupid's Carnival on Saturday, Feb. 12.



People line up for the well-known Canadian pastry at the Beaver Tail truck at the Abbey Gardens' first annual Cupid's Carnival.

Sort It Out

In January 2022, the Municipality of Dysart et al conducted a waste composition study to help us understand what materials are in household garbage and recycling.

We learned there are some items that cause confusion and are incorrectly being put in recycling.

These items go in the Garbage (never recycling):



Paper towel, tissue



Plastic Ziploc bags, other plastic film & bags



Plastic food pouches



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Dysart roots inform governance

Three years in - Municipality of Dysart et al - Deputy Mayor Pat Kennedy

CHRIS DROST

Staff Reporter

It has been just over three years since municipal councils began their current term of office. With the next municipal election now less than a year away, we have reached out to invite local political representatives to answer a few questions.

What is the cumulative time you have spent as a municipal representative for this municipality? (Is this your first term or have you served for multiple terms?)

This is my first term serving on council.

What in your personal background/experience has best helped you to be an effective member of council?

I've always had an interest in municipal politics and a desire to be part of a process to better our community now and to be involved in preparing for the future.

I believe that my experience of growing up in the eastern part of Dysart has helped me to be continually aware that any council deliberations and decisions need to be inclusive of all of the municipality where possible, and not just the "Haliburton core" so to speak.

My experience as a county department head (serving as chief of the Paramedic Service, and the [Haliburton] County Emergency Management program), provided me with the opportunity to work with both county council and the lower tiers to develop and improve services while being very aware (and reminded once or twice) of how budgets and tax increases affect our residents.

Three years in to this mandate, what do you believe has been this council's greatest achievement so far?

I believe we have accomplished a number of achievements so far, including the finalization of the Head Lake Park Master Plan, the finalization of the municipalities Asset Management Plan, completion of our zoning bylaw review, and of course the construction and opening of our new Welcome Centre.

Probably the one achievement that will have the largest impact to the municipality is council deciding to commit to a municipal-wide approach to improving our 320-kilometre road network.



Municipality of Dysart et al Deputy Mayor Pat Kennedy. /DARREN LUM Staff

This will be accomplished by not only using new road software to help prioritize annual road construction and maintenance, but also by a firm commitment by council to recognize and dedicate the necessary budget dollars to achieve our long-term goal of a better road system. This commitment is a process that will gradually improve the network within budgets that are substantially increased over past levels, while still providing and enhancing other priorities as well in a fiscally responsible manner.

Is there anything council has made a decision on in the past three years that you wish you could have a chance to redo?

Off hand, about the only thing that comes to mind is our review of land-

fill hours and the impact that the decisions made to reduce budget impacts. The changes were done with the best of intentions, however, the negative impacts to our residents and the minimal savings to the waste management budget stick out as one that I would like to have a "do over."

What is this council's greatest challenge in the year ahead?

Prioritization of the many challenges both at the municipal level and the county level. Dysart has numerous "irons in the fire."

COVID 19 has had an impact on how we as a municipality provide services. We are experiencing growth at a pace never before seen. As a result, council and senior management have identified

several challenges which have resulted in a review of many of our department operations. Next steps, (which in many cases are underway) will be to then develop new processes and procedures intended to deliver services more efficiently to the public. Many of the new changes will have budget implications, including more human resources needs, and use of technology to meet public expectations. Council will have to prioritize need versus budget implications.

A number of new housing projects are in various stages of the approval process, plus the Fleming College student housing project, and the Places for People housing project.

The Head Lake Master Plan will continue to evolve, taking advantage of grant opportunities as they become available to move that initiative forward. However, as we add more amenities, our capacity to maintain any new infrastructure may result in additional human resources being needed.

At the county level, Dysart will remain committed to being an engaged partner with the other lower tiers on the numerous projects under way as well as our "regular" county program responsibilities. Special projects include the contentious shoreline bylaw process, the upcoming, sure to be just as emotional, short-term rental governance model process, the ongoing service delivery review and implementation of the numerous recommendations, the implementation of the Community Safety and Well Being Plan, and the development of the new economic development strategy.

What do you hope this council can achieve in its last months in office?

Quite frankly, I think that if we can identify priorities and then communicate these priorities to senior management, they will be in a better position to help address those priorities that can be delivered this term. Right now, I believe there are so many priorities that staff and council are struggling with the very question you have posed.

I am hopeful that the strategic planning session that Mayor [Andrea] Roberts has requested to take place this winter will go a long ways in helping both council and staff develop short and longer term strategies that will address identified priorities and what can be delivered within the rest of this year, as well as set guidelines or a "roadmap" for the new council to follow.

Dysart et al council updated about DFO assessment for wetland controversy

STEPHEN PETRICK

Special to the Echo

A Haliburton resident who drew the wrath of protesters for filling what are believed to be important wetlands has stopped the activity, Dysart et al council was told.

Protests were held outside the Gelert Road property, located across from J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School last month. The protest involved a group called Turtle Guardians, which was upset that the owner was filling wetlands that the group says provide important turtle habitats.

The action also prompted citizens to write and submit close to two dozen letters to the municipality ahead of the Jan. 25 council meeting. Those letters scolded the municipality for allowing the action to happen.

Councillors then asked staff to investigate what actions they can take to address these concerns.

A report sent back to council for the Feb. 8 committee-

of-the-whole meeting showed that the issue was brought to the attention of the provincial Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks. It said that ministry has consulted with the landowner "who has voluntarily agreed to halt filling until a Habitat Assessment is completed and reviewed with the Ministry."

The report also said that the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans intends to assess the area to see if there is "an evidence of loss of fish habitat" but that work won't happen until the spring, when the water level is high enough.

As council discussed the matter, a problem became clear; that the municipality doesn't have the authority to stop this type of action, as there is no bylaw that can stop a property owner from filing a wetland on their own private property.

Dysart's director of planning, Jeff Iles, told council that a "site alteration bylaw" is currently being considered by Haliburton County, but is not in place yet. Ultimately, the action stopped because people in the community raised concerns.

"Any property owner needs to be aware if they're doing this type of work, they should contact the municipality – we are a good starting point," Iles said. "A lot of the time, it does fall back on public comments to start the process."

Mayor Andrea Roberts defended the property owners, without naming them.

"Keep in mind, this property in question, they have rights. They were really victimized. Things were said on social media and other methods, about them personally. They're undertaking studies themselves. No one is asking them to do this. They're doing this on their own volition."

She said there's often confusion about what areas of the municipality are deemed environmentally sensitive, as it's possible for a landowner to purchase a part of land in a protected area and have it severed. When that happens, it doesn't necessarily mean the new property is still considered environmentally sensitive land, she said.

An email to the property owners seeking comment wasn't immediately returned.



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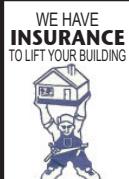
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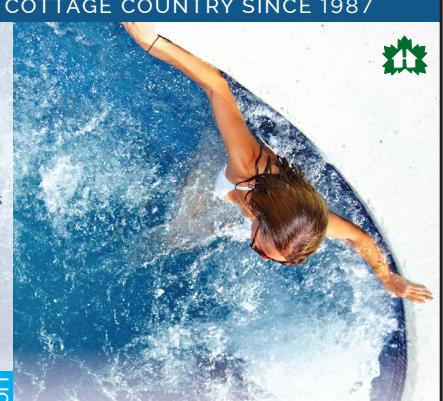
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400 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**Now Hiring**

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The Haliburton County Echo and Minden Times are seeking a skilled **Full or Part-Time Reporter/Photographer** to join an award-winning team of journalists in the heart of Ontario's cottage country.

The preferred candidate will possess the following:

- Knowledge of or interest in municipal government, in addition to general news
- Firm command of spelling, grammar and Canadian Press style
- Demonstrated photography and photo editing skills
- Ability to juggle numerous assignments while meeting multiple deadlines
- Must reside in Haliburton County
- Must have access to a vehicle and a valid driver's licence
- Required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19

Interested candidates should forward their resume with writing and photography samples to Editors, Darren Lum or Sue Tiffin

by **Friday March 11, 2022**

darren@haliburtonpress.com

or

sue@haliburtonpress.com

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Call 705-457-1037
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 Deadline Friday at 4 pm

400 | EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



The Corporation of the County of Haliburton Requires

One (1) Permanent Truck Driver/Equipment Operator

Successful applicant will possess an AZ licence and have experience operating heavy equipment. Hourly rate is \$25.78.

Two (2) Seasonal 1 Operators

Successful applicant will possess a DZ licence and have road maintenance and repair experience. Hourly rate is \$24.24.

Two (2) Seasonal Flagperson/Labourers

Successful applicant will possess a G licence and have experience in manual labour positions. Hourly rate is \$17.96.

These are unionized CUPE positions. Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for detailed postings and job descriptions.

Please forward your resume to shume@haliburtoncounty.ca no later than Friday February 25th, 2022 at 12:00pm.

We thank all who apply for this position; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The County of Haliburton is an equal employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details.

In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the information gathered will be used solely for the purpose of job selection.



The Corporation of the County of Haliburton Requires

One (1) Permanent Engineering Assistant – Capital Projects

The successful applicant should have a college diploma in Civil Engineering or Survey Technology and will have 2-3 years of municipal work experience. Must have a valid G drivers licence. The hourly rate for this unionized CUPE position is \$30.95.

One (1) Seasonal Engineering Student (April - August)

The successful applicant must be currently attending a civil engineering program, familiar with Total Station Surveys, ArcGIS, AutoCAD and have a valid G drivers licence. The hourly rate for this unionized CUPE position is \$22.42.

Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for a detailed posting and job description.

Please forward your resume to shume@haliburtoncounty.ca no later than March 2, 2022.

We thank all who apply for this position; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The County of Haliburton is an equal employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details.

In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the information gathered will be used solely for the purpose of job selection.



Employment Opportunity
Municipality of Dysart et al

Engineering Technician

Salary \$55,145 - \$64,512

Reporting to the Director of Public Works, the successful applicant will have sound knowledge of the methods, materials and equipment required for the production of engineered drawings, data collection and layout of municipal public work projects.

Primary duties will include, but are not limited to topographic survey data collection using robotic total station, creating base plans and civil designs using AutoCAD Civil 3D and collecting/updating municipal asset information for use in long term asset management.

Self-motivated applicants must be able to work outdoors in all weather conditions with minimal supervision. A valid Ontario Class 'G' licence is required along with an acceptable abstract.

Interested individuals are invited to email a detailed resume and cover letter in confidence to:

Laura Casey, Manager of Payroll and HR
hr@dysartetal.ca

No Later Than 12:00 pm Friday, March 4th , 2022

We thank all those who apply, but only those selected for an interview will be contacted. Accommodations for applicants with disabilities will be provided upon request. The Municipality of Dysart et al is an equal opportunity employer. Personal information is collected in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and will be used only for employment purposes.

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Abbey GARDENS

Employment Opportunity @ Abbey Gardens

Seasonal Programming Assistant

Full Time May- September. \$18/hour

Support spring and summer programming with program design and development, implementation, facilitation, and evaluation with the support of experienced outdoor educators. Resumes can be submitted to:

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Minden Animal Hospital continues to accept new clients and thus needs more team members!!

We are looking for a FT and/or PT Registered Veterinary Technician, or recent graduate. If you have a positive attitude, are team oriented and can provide not only top notch patient care but also a great customer experience this position is for you.

Please send resume to tracey@mindenah.com

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650 OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of
Marie Blair
Passed away peacefully at Highland Wood LTC,
Haliburton on Tuesday, February 8, 2022.

Beloved wife of the late Lee. Loving mother of Marnnie. Dear sister of Shirley (Bernard), Roger (Cathy) and aunt of Susan (Bill) and her children Andrew (Katie) and Jessica, loving great great aunt to Kensley and Remi-Lee; Alexander and Sophie. Marie was lovingly cared for by Anne, Elaine, Susan, Kathryn, Annah, Nancy, Crystal and Keelan. Thank you to Dr. Suke, Dr. Stephenson and the care team at Highland Wood.

A Private Graveside Service will take place at Ingoldsby Pioneer Cemetery in the Spring.

Memorial Donations to the Heart and Stroke Foundation or to Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation-Highland Wood LTD (HHHSF-Highland Wood LTC) would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.

www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com



*Those we love don't go away
They walk beside us every day.
Unseen, unheard, but always near
Still loved, still missed and very dear.*

In Loving Memory of
John Cameron Winsley
(W. Bro. with the North Entrance Lodge #463 Haliburton and the Parkwood Lodge #695 Oshawa)
Passed away peacefully at home on Monday, January 31, 2022 surrounded by his family, at the age of 77.

Beloved husband of Audrie. Dear father of Shawn (Diane), Bronwen (Jay) and Meggan. Loving grandfather of Rachel, Caleb, Austin, Kaelyn and Harrison. Dear brother of Elizabeth and predeceased by Margaret. Fondly remembered by his many nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Friends are invited to visit the family at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Bobcaygeon Road, P.O. Box 427, Minden K0M 2K0 on Saturday, February 26, 2022 from 11:00 am until the time of the Service to Celebrate John's Life at 1:00 pm.

Please Note # All patrons (visitors) must provide proof of being fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and identification prior to entering. Social distancing, face coverings and lists for the names and phone numbers of the visiting attendees are required for contact tracing.

Memorial Donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.

www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

**Community
FUNERAL HOME**
James Henry Hunt
(Resident of Haliburton, Ontario)
June 8, 1934 - February 6, 2022

Beloved husband of Ruth, loving father of Brad (Lorrie), Lori, Greg (Christine), Gary, Rob (Susan), and Ed (Leigh). Grandfather to Madeline (Brian), Melissa (Paul), Mitchell (Cassie), Lauren – predeceased, Colin, Emma, Tom (Kristina), Ben (Jennifer), Harry – predeceased, and Travis. Great grandfather of Leo, Riley, Hannah, and Harper. James is predeceased by his brothers, sisters, and Delores Hunt. Jim was a Markham boy, successful salesman, hunter with Springer Spaniels, fisherman, hockey coach, Lions Club & Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association member.

Family Graveside Service

Spring interment at Twelve Mile Lake Cemetery. Arrangements have been entrusted to **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy #118 Haliburton, Ontario 705-457-9209. As an expression of sympathy, donations to Guide Dogs Canada, Extendicare Proud Pioneers, or Haliburton Highlands Health Services would be appreciated by the family.

www.communityfuneralhomes.com

CAS to close Haliburton office

by MARTHA PERKINS

Editor

The Children's Aid Society office in Haliburton will be closed and two jobs lost as a cost-saving measure, it was announced last Tuesday.

At the end of this month, the rent agreement ends at the present loca-

tion and there are no plans to open another office. The senior family worker, Ken Munks, will end his supervisory role and one family worker will be sent to the Lindsay office. Office secretary Jamie Hurley will lose her job, which she has held for the past seven years.

That means two family workers will be retained, perhaps sharing

'No one is saying that what's going on in Haliburton isn't important'

President Roy Wood

office space with another local agency.

"The Ministry of Community and Social Services has told us how

of the Kawartha-Haliburton CAS, which serves Peterborough, Victoria and Haliburton Counties.

Because the caseload figures in Haliburton are lower, it was decided to make the cuts here, he said. A six-resident group home in Peterborough is also being closed, with the loss of eight positions. Three case aid workers who help

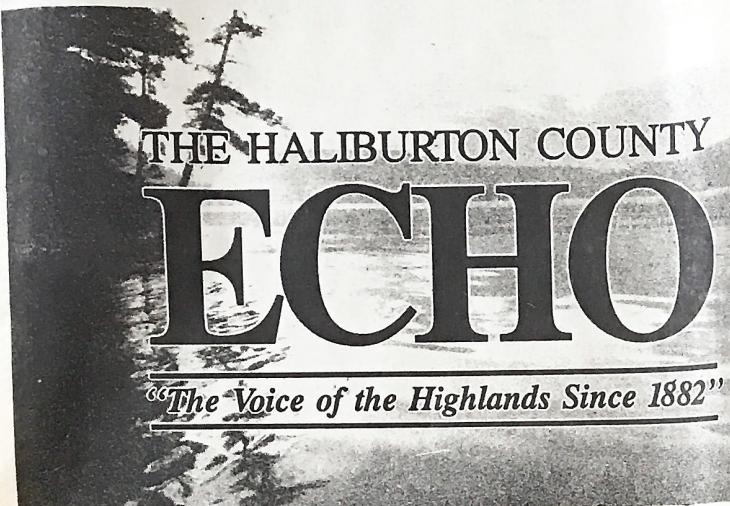
foster parents with difficult children are also being let go. Some of the workers may be transferred to other departments, depending on tenure.

When asked why no management jobs were eliminated, Wood said there may be more job cuts forthcoming.

"No one is saying that what's

Please turn to page 2

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1992



Vol. 110, No. 8 • 28 pages • 65 cents + GST = 70 cents

Zebra mussels move north but Haliburton lakes safe

by MARTHA PERKINS

Editor

Even though zebra mussels have been discovered in two Muskoka lakes, there's still little need for Haliburton County to worry about an infestation, says the Ministry of Natural Resources' district biologist.

"I wouldn't panic yet. Most of our lakes are pretty safe," says David McLeish of the Minden office.

The rapidly growing mussels were found in three separate locations on Lake Rosseau and Mirror Lake. Given the size of the lakes, McLeish says the chances of just coming across mussels recently released from the bilge water of a boat are fairly slim. In the Great Lakes there are concentrations of 180 to 190 veligers (free-floating juveniles) per litre, but in the Muskoka samples were only three

veligers per hundreds of litres. It's when the mussels mass together that problems are caused, such as restricting the flow of water into intake pipes.

And just because the small mussels were found doesn't mean they'll survive in this type of lake, McLeish says. "There may well be veligers that come in and are

trying to grow, but they may not be able to successfully reproduce."

To thrive, the small clam-like mussels need 40 to 50 milligrams of calcium per litre of water. In most Haliburton lakes there's less than five milligrams, although there may be isolated areas where limestone is prevalent. Lakes in the

Please turn to page 2

Stanhope to buy land for dump

Stanhope has been given approval by the Ministry of Natural Resources to proceed with the purchase of land it needs to expand the Hawk Lake landfill site.

Council agreed in principle at its January meeting to buy 40 acres of land at a cost of \$9,200 from the Ministry. It is now being surveyed as the next step in the approval process.

"Most of the land we're pur-

chasing will be for the buffer zone and leachate area required for the expansion," clerk Gerald Bain said. "The site itself will only be expanded about one acre but that should extend its life about 20 years."

The actual sale of the land won't take place until the Ministry approves the survey, at which time the municipality can go ahead with its plans.

Please turn to page 2

Tough times ahead as BOE braces for budget

by MARK PUBLICOVER

Staff Reporter

The Board of Education will begin to establish its budget later this month and Director Brad Saunders says there are some tough choices to be made.

"We may not be getting any increase at all (in government funding) and we have to become more cost efficient," he told *The Echo*. "We have to look at everything and see if there is a different way of providing programs that won't

disadvantage the children but that will cost us less."

Effective immediately, the board has frozen all hiring and conferences for staff and trustees until the budget is set. At last Tuesday's board meeting, Business Administrator Jim Bradley told the trustees the province may even give them less grant money than last year.

The Ministry of Education is scheduled to announce its grant in March.

"The province has set an exam-

ple with its funding restraints and that's what we'll have to follow,"

Saunders told the trustees. "But the general grant will have the most impact and we really can't give any direction until then."

Some trustees, however, want some kind of direction to start looking at areas to cut right away.

"I think we should start now," Dysart trustee Len Salvatori said. "If we have to make cuts, we'll have to talk to a lot of different people around budget time and if we wait until then, it may be too late."

The board's Management Committee will set the budget and has been given a tentative schedule for the process that begins with a review of the draft expenditure budget later this month. The committee will consult trustees and other interested parties to refine the

Please turn to , page 3



THINK SPRING!

The Canadian National Institute for the Blind is celebrating an early spring with its third annual "Visions of Spring Crocus Sale." On February 13, 14 and 15, pots of crocus bulbs will be available for \$4 a pot at the Bank of Montreal in Haliburton. Here, bank manager and CNIB volunteer Ann Martino holds up a promise of things to come.

What about the Highlands' weather?

by MARK PUBLICOVER

Staff Reporter

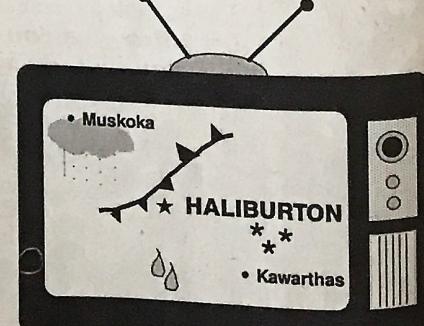
"...A low of minus 10 and a high of minus three in Barrie and as you can see, we're expecting a low of minus 21 and a high of about minus 10 in the Muskoka and Georgian Bay regions."

Hey, wait a minute, what about Haliburton?

Well, thanks to a campaign being launched by the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce, county residents might not have to ask that question anymore while watching the evening news on their favorite TV station.

The Chamber's Public Relations Committee Chairman Derek Lowry has submitted letters to the four TV stations that serve the area expressing concern that Haliburton is lumped in with Muskoka on weather forecasts.

Residents are urged to write to CHEX in Peterborough, CKVR in Barrie, Kitchener's CKCO and Global TV of Toronto to support



the campaign.

"We believe it is time that the proud, vital County of Haliburton should receive more precise identification on your weather map and during your weather forecasts," Lowry writes.

"Yours is one of the few stations that can be received here without

the aid of cable or a satellite dish, so you have a loyal audience and this audience can only be encouraged to view your station even more when they see their immediate locality recognized by your station."

Chamber President Rhonda Elstone said representation on TV

broadcast, he encouraged residents from Haliburton County to call in with weather information.

"We want to get our name in front of the viewing public here and in the cities so that other marketing things we do will click more," she said. "In a way, it's sort of a freebie advertisement for the County."

Asked what it would take to get Haliburton on the air, News CKVR's news manager, Bill Patrick, said, "heck, maybe even this phone call will do it."

He said the station would look into mentioning Haliburton and not grouping it with Muskoka because it wants to serve all of its viewers the best way it can.

"If people start writing in with the request, I'm sure we'd make every effort to announce Haliburton separately from the Muskoka region," he said.

CKCO weatherman Dave McDonald said he will try to mention Haliburton more often provided he has the necessary information. During last Wednesday's

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**inside
the
echo**

Kids first

It's time people stopped depending on taxpayers' largesse

editorial

See page 6

Turning time into money

Doug Tedford finds opportunity in recession

this week

See page 4

Working for healthier hearts

Two men face a potential killer

people

Second Front

Stepping down

Drum major gives up mace

people

See page 18




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TWELVE MILE LAKE ROAD \$1,995,000



A RARE FIND! 1677 feet of frontage and 6+ acres fronting on both beautiful Twelve Mile Lake and Little Boshkung Lake. This point lot is totally private and takes in multiple exposures and has stunning lake views. The historic "Strathcona Lodge" was located here. The original foundation is still present and has the potential to be built on. Two small historic cabins are also on the subject property. Don't miss this opportunity to build your dream home or getaway on one of the most peaceful settings in Haliburton County.
Price is plus HST

IRONDALE RIVER \$695, 000



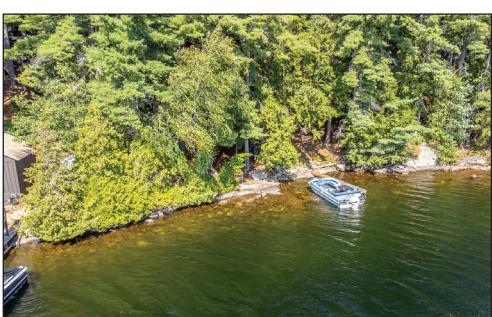
Indulge in peace and serenity with this stunning extensively renovated, open concept four season riverfront dream home or cottage getaway. Vaulted ceilings, windows with a view and white-washed pine walls, this welcoming space is filled with natural sunlight. Incredible sunset views lead to cozy evenings entertaining in the new gourmet kitchen or unwinding with a view in the soaker tub. There is plenty of room to accommodate guests with the den in use as a 3rd bedroom. Walkout to the deck and multiple seating areas will greet you with plenty of privacy and beautiful landscaping on this well treed lot.

UNICORN ROAD \$549,000



Your opportunity for a secluded, peaceful off grid Haliburton retreat is here! This 237 acres is the perfect destination to enjoy nature's natural beauty. Fantastic trails throughout the property. Nested amongst the trees with a tranquil view of one of the many ponds, is a cute 22 x 22 cabin. The wood finishings throughout creates a warm and cozy feeling. Settle in and warm up in front of the wood burning stove. 24 x 24 detached garage is the ideal building to store all of your year round toys. Quick access to amenities in Haliburton Village and cell service throughout the property keeps you in the loop while enjoying your escape from the hustle and bustle.

KAWAGAMA LAKE \$279,000



Stunning south views across the lake. This property has a fantastic shoreline of mixed sand/gravel gradual entry to the water. Hydro is at the lot line and there is good cell service. This is easily accessible from either marina on the lake. Enjoy this affordable lot in the summer while you make your plans for your new cottage. Great fishing year-round and fantastic snowmobiling in the winter.



**NEW LISTING
BEECH RIVER \$1,190,000**

Enjoy the tranquility of Beech river for swimming, fishing, canoeing and kayaking. Or take a minute to boat ride into Big Boshkung Lake, a 3 lake chain comprised of Big Boshkung, Little Boshkung and Twelve Mile Lake in Algonquin Highlands. This is a beautiful 3 bedroom, 2 bath with rough in for 3rd bathroom in the basement. 2540 sq ft finished and 1425 sq ft partially finished walkout basement. This home was built in 2017 with wood siding and energy efficient ICF foundation. This could be your year round home or cottage located in a fabulous area of fine homes and 175ft of waterfront. Open concept main floor with soaring cathedral ceilings in living room with expansive views and gorgeous 2 sided propane fireplace (waiting for your finishing touches on the fireplace). Large kitchen with room for all to join in. Dining area with 2 walk outs to a large deck. From the living room enter a lovely sitting room with another walk out to deck. Main floor bedroom with double closets and a full bathroom in the foyer complete this floor. Upstairs you will find 2 very large bedrooms with Juliette balconies, full bathroom and cozy loft family room with 2nd propane fireplace overlooking the living room with views to the waterfront. The partially finished basement has 2 walkouts and woodstove. Perfect to create your own "staycation". Fully enclosed with glass, the hot tub room has a 6-8 person hot tub (never used), with rough in for wet bar. Add a projection screen and pool table and you are set! In floor heating on all 3 floors, and on demand hot water. Take a stroll down to the waterfront where you will find a lovely sitting deck in the shade on the shoreline, or sit in the full sun on the dock. This home requires some finishings to complete for final occupancy and is being sold "as is where is" condition. Offer presentation 2:22pm February 22, 2022.



